



ROBERT TREAT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL NORTH AND CENTRAL CAMPUSES



February 2013
Volume 15, Issue 7



THE TREATONIAN

Our Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to announce, in response to numerous parental requests, the Academy is now utilizing a broadcast system to notify parents of emergency closings and other important notifications. Parents will be notified through contact phone numbers or email addresses depending on the notification. **It is vitally important you keep us up to date if any of your current information changes.**

I welcome your feedback to see if any improvements can be made to this new notification system.

As you were notified the State of the School Address will be given on February 27th at our Central campus and February 28th at our North campus.

I want to remind you the administration of the NJ-ASK is fast approaching. Your children and their teachers have been working very hard to adjust to the new Common Core State Standards. These standards are considerably different than the New Jersey State Standards. Students are required to have in depth knowledge of skills, to be able to sight evidence when responding to questions, and to be able to think critically. Although the NJ-ASK will now be presented in this new format I assure you the Academy has taken significant steps to ensure the continued success of our students. We have provided teachers with meaningful and ongoing professional development and have purchased the latest curriculum materials. Students are working diligently in increased small group instruction. We ask for your full cooperation regarding Saturday school and when remediation requests are made by teachers.

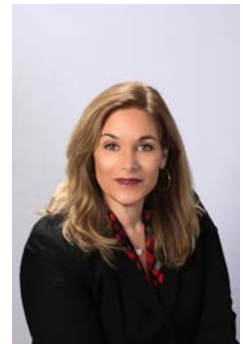
The dates of the NJ-ASK are as follows;

Grades 7 th /8 th	April 29 th through May 2 nd
Grades 5 th /6 th	May 6 th through May 9 th
Grades 3 rd /4 th	May 13 th through May 17 th

We are currently running our candy bar fund raising. I would like to thank those parents who are enthusiastically selling their boxes. We have some parents who still have not come to pick up their boxes. I urge you to do so as soon as possible. Relatively few parents have refused to participate in this fundraising activity. Thankfully, we have parents who are selling more than their share. Our fundraising activities are on behalf of our founding organization The North Ward Center. You all know how whenever the school is in need, such as the replacing of the roof at our North campus, the Center never hesitates to come to our aid. The Center has provided our students with extraordinary opportunities such as the Sailing School at Belmar Harbor and swimming classes to name just two. Since our first graduating class in 2005, the Center has provided tuition assistance for graduates attending St. Vincent Academy and St. Benedict's Academy. They have provided tuition assistance for students attending Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. The list goes on and on.

Our Student Council and our 8th grade students are working on a very special community service project in support of the students of Newtown, Connecticut. Please refer to the article on page 6. This tragedy touched our children very deeply. In my conversations with them they expressed their concern for the families of the children. They talked about these children never having the chance to grow up. Relatively few talked about their own safety. This project will be a way for our children to express their feelings and to give them a sense that they are helping this community to recover. You should be very proud of them. Together we are raising caring and civic minded young citizens.

Principal



North Campus Students of the Month for January 2013

Giovan Guanil	104	Elisha Vazquez	207	Khaelyn Robinson	308
David Chaparro	107	Leah Ramos	208	Alianna Maduro	310
Claryssa Martinez	201	Pedro Reyes	210	Destiny Figueroa	Art
Julianna Rivera	202	Jared Miranda	301		
Joshua Lopez	203	Rosemary Lopez	302	Fadillah Brown-Ross	Phy.Ed.
Arelys Jaquez	204	Xavian Cintron	303	Diago Gonzalez	Science
Tyrone Lee	205	Amanda Roman	304	Laura Shipman	Tech.
Manny Arocho	206	Janelly Lopez	306		



BOTTOM TO TOP AND LEFT TO RIGHT:

ROW 1: PEDRO REYES

**ROW 2: DIAGO GONZALEZ
GIOVAN GUANIL
ELISHA VAZQUEZ**

**ROW 3: DESTINY FIGUEROA
DAVID CHAPARRO
MANNY AROCHO**

**ROW 4: ARELYS JAQUEZ
FADILLAH BROWN-ROSS
TYRONE LEE**

**ROW 5: ROSEMARY LOPEZ
JULIANNA RIVERA
JOSHUA LOPEZ**

**ROW 6: AMANDA ROMAN
JANELLY LOPEZ
LEAH RAMOS**

**ROW 7: JARED MIRANDA
ALIANNA MADURO
XAVIAN CINTRON
KHAELYN ROBINSON**

FEBRUARY 2013

Central Campus Students of the Month for January 2013

Saladin Small	12	Mercedes Bailey	15	Celesta Goeh-Akue	Music
Tyrese Pickett-Telfair	13	Tamia Butler	27	Nilsa Ramos	P.E.
Catherine Esteves	14				



LEFT TO RIGHT:

ROW 1: SALADIN SMALL, CELESTA GOEH-AKUE, TYRESE PICKETT-TELFAIR AND CATHERINE ESTEVES

ROW 2: MERCEDES BAILEY, TAMIA BUTLER AND NILSA RAMOS

ROBERT TREAT ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

2012 - 2013

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
Wednesday, February 27 th	Central Campus	State of School Address
Thursday, February 28 th	North Campus	State of School Address
March 4 th through March 8 th	Both Campuses	Parent Conferences (Late Night Wednesday, March 6 th)
Wednesday, April 17 th	Both Campuses	International Dinner
Wednesday, May 29 th	Both Campuses	Spring Concert/Art Show
Friday, June 21 st	North	Founder's Day

First Grade Book Critics

Submitted by the Central Campus
First Grade Team

Have you been looking for a good book? The first graders have been busy reading all different kinds of books. They chose one book that they have read and wrote a book review for that book telling their opinion about what they thought of the book. Here are few for you to enjoy:

"Do you want to read a funny book called Stone Soup? It is about a poor young man who does not have any money. He told an old woman that a stone was magic. I liked this book because it was funny. It made me laugh. You should read this book because you will like it!"

By: **Saladin Small**

"Hey guys, do you want to go on a magnificent adventure? If you do, you should read Safari. Come explore the amazing journey of a group of

people that show you what a safari is like. They might even show you new animals. Don't be shy. Ask for that book, turn the page and explore!"

By: **Isamar Martinez**

"Do you want to read a book about a kind bear? If you do, you should read A Kiss for Little Bear. In this book, little bear shares kisses. I love this book because it makes me happy. The only part I don't like is when the skunks get married. You should read this book because you won't want to put it down."

By: **Kayla Perry**



"Parent involvement in education is like the frosting on a cupcake, it makes it complete and oh so sweet."

Author Unknown

First Grade Celebrates 100 Days of Learning

**Submitted by the North Campus
First Grade Team**

In the month of January, the students in both First Grades celebrated 100 Days of Learning by participating in many 100 day activities. Since the beginning of the year, the students have been keeping track of their days in school by keeping straws in a bag in their desk. The straws were used to practice counting and place value. Every ten days the straws were banded together to make a group of ten.

January 24th was the day we had all been waiting for. We made it to 100 days and our 100th Day Celebration! Every child made a 100 day

necklace to wear by stringing 100 pieces of macaroni and a 100 Day crown that they decorated. The students also participated in activities that reinforced our reading, writing, and math skills. Students used a variety of technology including the Promethean board and an I Pad to enhance their learning. Even our very own gym teacher, Mr. Ontell, was involved in the fun. The classes displayed the projects that they made at home in the front hall and at the end of the day we all enjoyed our 100 Day snack. It was a fun filled day with many opportunities for learning and sharing.



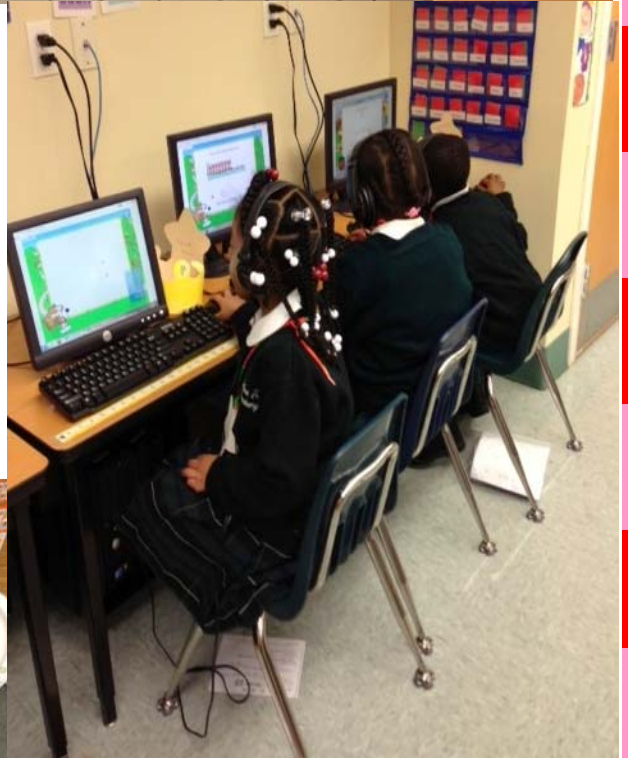
BOTH FIRST GRADES



**LEFT: ACTIVE-
BOARD ACTIVITY**

**RIGHT: COMPUTER
ACTIVITY**

**BELOW: BOY, M &
M'S CAN SPELL
FUN!**



Shocked by Fourth Grade.....

Submitted by the North Campus Fourth Grade Team

The fourth graders learned just how static electricity works in comparison to current electricity. First, the students learned that all atoms contain protons, neutrons, and electrons. Electrons, the negative charges, are the charges that travel from one item to another. The students used balloons to demonstrate and understand this. They blew up balloons, rubbed them on their partners' heads to build up electrons onto the balloon, and watched as static electricity happened.

In lab class, the students were paired up to learn how electric current moves through different materials. As they learned this, it helped them to understand how electrical energy brings light into a home. They are able to describe what a circuit is, understand what switches do, and determine what materials conduct or insulate electrical currents.

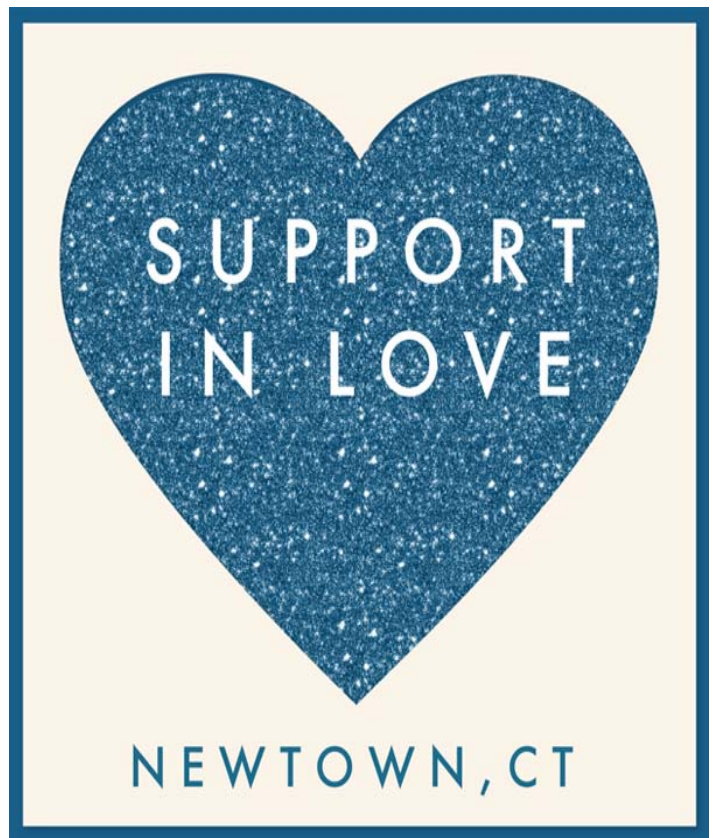


8th Grade Takes Lead in Support of Newtown, Connecticut

Submitted by the Eighth Grade Team

The 8th Grade students at Robert Treat Academy are currently involved in a project to show awareness, support, and solidarity with the students of Newtown, Connecticut. As you all know, this small Northeastern town experienced an unspeakable tragedy on December 14th, 2012 when a gunman attacked Sandy Hook Elementary School, resulting in the deaths of 26 innocent people. As the nation tries to cope with such a tragic event as this, it is important that Americans of all ages do whatever they can to show support and lend their hearts to those who have suffered such great loss. The Robert Treat Academy Student Council has developed a service project for the survivors and families of the victims of this town in which we as a school will send a "human chain" with messages from the students of our school to theirs. The theme of this human chain is "Robert Treat Stands with Sandy Hook". Although the Student Council is designing the project, the 8th Grade students will compose the initial statements-setting the example for a message that combines sympathy with hope. Whenever a tragic event affects our nation (and unfortunately this event shocked the nation beyond comprehension), Americans always stand together. As we discuss and debate ways to prevent future tragedies such as this, our school will stand with those who were af-

ected. Hopefully, our gift of support will help that community to recover.



Physical Education Program Important

**Submitted by Mr. Ontell
North Campus P.E. Teacher**

Bowling Week at RTA was a fun way for students to return to PE as they worked together in small groups to manage lanes and calculate scores. Balance, eye-hand coordination, and consistency were assessed through a series of Tennis Challenges. Selected students from the middle grades will have the opportunity to continue to improve their tennis game in our aftercare tennis program coming this spring! Finally, Volleyball season has arrived! All classes will learn the dynamics of the sport and while our primary students will practice their skills with balloons and beach balls, the upper grades will compete in the annual RTA Volleyball Tournament!



Striking??

**Submitted by Mr. Bush
Central Campus P.E. Teacher**

The area of focus in Physical Education class for the month of February is striking. The Third and Fourth grade students will have the opportunity to strike with different implements such as bats, pillo polo sticks, and paddles. As for the younger grades, Kindergarten through Second will follow the same lessons except that they will be using their hands.

Students should understand the importance of using the proper grip, stance, and swing method for each striking implement. Students will spend at least one full day practicing the proper methods and safety procedures before moving on to our games. Once the students have gained a deeper understanding of each skill, they will participate in various activities such as Cone Baseball, 500, Wall Golf, Pillo Polo, Balloon Round-up, Ga-Ga, and Circle Ball.

As we move into our striking unit, safety is the most important concept the students must understand. Students, such as the Third and Fourth

graders, will be using pillo polo sticks during this unit. If students are not using these properly, they can really hurt someone. Before each class begins, I will sit with the students and continue to stress the fact that safety is our number one priority. If our students are not playing safely, we will ultimately have to switch gears. Keeping the stick below the waist at all times is something I will be continually stressing and looking for. Students should not be focused on hitting the ball as hard as they can, but on staying safe and having fun while working together as a team. The Kindergarten, First, and Second Graders will be using bats so it will be equally important to stress that they should not swing while anyone is around them.

Our main goal is for everyone to play safely, have fun, and experience new activities while building friendships in the multipurpose room.



AS CARLOS MARTINEZ SWINGS THE PILLO POLO STICK, JOSHUA NEGRON IS LETTING HIM KNOW WHICH TECHNIQUE IS ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE BY GIVING HIM THUMBS UP AND DOWN.

Sorry About That!

Oduwa Iyoha's name was omitted from the Honor Roll list that was published last month. Oduwa is a kindergarten student at Central Campus.

We are sorry that this happened.

Bet You Didn't Know This?

**Submitted by the Central Campus
Fourth Grade Team**

Did you know the human body contains over 200 bones? Did you know the femur is the longest bone in your body and can be up to 2 feet long? Well, if you didn't know, the Central Campus fourth grade students can tell you! This month in Science we have been learning all about the different systems of the body. We started our unit with the skeletal system. Working in our lab groups each student had to measure different bones in their body. Bones like the femur, skull and tibia were all measured. We also had to figure out how much our skeleton weighs based on our body weight. (Your skeleton is $\frac{1}{5}$ of your body weight) This tied in nicely with our math unit on fractions. Stay tuned to hear more from the mad scientists of Room 27.



**TOP LEFT: NYOBI BOD-
DIE AND JANEL BOOKER**

**TOP RIGHT: SHAYLA
MILLER AND ISIS PABON**

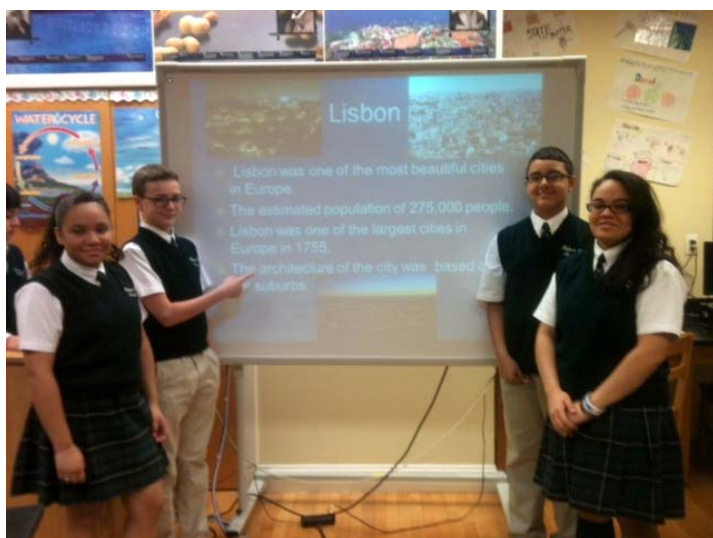
**LEFT: ZION RUFFIN
AND DANTE TERRY**



Earth Science

Submitted by Ms. Kelly-Kemple, North Campus Science Teacher

The students in grade eight just completed the Earth Science unit. To finish the chapter all of the students worked in groups to prepare a power point presentation on earthquakes. Each group had to research a particular earthquake, create 12 to 15 slides, and give an oral presentation to their classmates. All of the students did a wonderful job presenting interesting, and often sad facts about major disasters that have happened during the past hundred and fifty years. In addition to the fantastic pictures many of the groups discussed the innovations and advancements that have made to buildings and cities more earthquake friendly. Congratulations to all of the groups for wonderful presentations!



**McAFEE SHEEHAN, DAVID
CHAPARRO, ROCIO UZETA, AND RUBY
D'OLEO.**



**GIANCARLO CALLE, BRIANNA MATOS,
ALANA GARCIA, JOEL RAMOS, AND JIHAD
MARSHALL**

Notable Figures in the Fight for Rights

Submitted by the Seventh Grade Team

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the seventh grade has been studying notable figures in the fight for rights. We studied civil rights, human rights, women's rights, and children's rights. For civil rights, we discussed Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Jessie Jackson, Harriet Tubman, and Brown vs. Board of Education. In terms of human rights, we studied the Dalai Lama, Cesar Chavez, Gandhi, and Nelson Mandela. For women's rights, we talked about Susan B. Anthony, Gloria Steinem, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth. And lastly for children's rights we took a look at the work of Eleanor Roosevelt, Nkosi Johnson, Mattie Stepanek, and Princess Diana. We found it to be important to introduce the children to some of these lesser known people and show them the impact a single individual can have. We wrapped it up with a discussion in character education about the importance of tolerance.



Basketball in the Library?

Submitted by the North Campus Second Grade Team

Even with basketball season in prime time, the players and coaches from the Division 1 Men's College Basketball Team at New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ dedicated their time last Friday, January 18th to the second grade students at RTA North. On the court or in the classroom ... they demonstrated to the children that working hard and showing compassion are important skills to achieving success in the future. Coaches Spisto, Kennedy, and Healing all assisted their players in making this day memorable for both classes. The team of 13 players read stories to the students and the students showed their enthusiasm about learning by showing off some of their skills too! Our students were grateful for the opportunity they received and acknowl-

edged this by writing thank you letters to each player. We hope they will return soon and talk about how playing sports creates a work ethic needed not only for attaining good grades in college, but how being dedicated and giving to others is needed to be a well-rounded person in life.



We Remember Dr. King

**Submitted by the North Campus
Kindergarten Team**

The Kindergarten Team at North spent quite a bit of time learning about Dr. Martin Luther King. It was an inspiring story for the children as they listened to part of Dr. King's speech. They voiced their opinions of segregation and how unfair it was to live that way. They learned that having a dream doesn't only happen when they are asleep. The students spent time "dreaming" of the things that they wish for. After brainstorming, they started writing their dreams down. The students were very creative with their dreams.

Jayvyn Soto from 301 wrote, "I have a dream that I have many books. I really like to read!"

Ailani Miller from 303 wrote, "I have a dream that I will change the world. I want to change the world because citizens do not have homes."



Third Grade Learns About Fractions!

Fractions are everywhere you look - on the playground, at school, even at birthday parties! Whether you are counting money, baking a cake, or making sure you are getting your fair share of the pizza, fractions are there to help you. We are going to have a "whole" lot of fun discovering the world of fractions in third grade!

In the upcoming weeks, the students will learn that fractions are everywhere in mathematics and in day to day life. Whole numbers are just not enough. Since we will extend our number system to include fractions (and decimals, which are really just fractions, too), we will be able to solve a wide variety of problems. A solid foundation in fractions is an essential prerequisite for understanding how to depict measurements and plot data on graphs, which are coming up next!

If you're wondering how you can help your child learn about fractions, the first thing you can do is let your child know when you are using fractions in your own life. You can also start baking together! Take out the measuring cup and spoons, and let your child measure and add ingredients. While you are in the car, you can also mark the passing of time with fractions by saying, "We are

one-third of the way there. It will take us 20 more minutes to get to the mall. How many minutes will it take us to get there?" Having your child see you using the same math he or she is learning to use can be a powerful inspiration to learn!



**Saturday School
is very important!**



2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS

SCHOOL CLOSING DATES

2013

OF DAYS
STUDENTS/TEACHERS

February	15-18	School Closed – President's Day Observance	18 / 18
March	29	School Closed – Spring Recess	20 / 20
April	1-5	School Closed – Spring Recess	
	8	School Reopens	17 / 17
May	27	School Closed – Memorial Day Observances	22 / 22
June	28	Last Day of School – 8 th Grade Graduation	20 / 20
TOTAL # of Days – STUDENTS			203
TOTAL # of Days – TEACHERS			205

Third Grade + Positive Behaviors = Success

Submitted by Central Campus Third Grade Team

The Third Grade students have been working toward demonstrating positive behaviors in the classroom. They are learning to carefully follow directions, listen attentively, be respectful to classmates and teachers, be on task, and use work time appropriately.

The students earn Kickin' Cash dollars when they show these behaviors in the classroom. It is important for the students to earn the cash, as well as keep it. This also shows responsibility for their actions in school.

The students used their Kickin' Cash to purchase Kickin' Cash Tickets at our school auction. They had a great time knowing that all their hard work paid off and their rewards were well worth it!



STUDENTS BIDDING ON ITEMS OF INTEREST.



**Don't forget to sign up for your
Parent Conference
in the Main Office.**



Snow Ball Fun!!

Submitted by the Central Campus Kindergarten Team

This month Kindergarten read a story called "Snowballs" by Lois Elhert. In the story, the children wait for a perfect snowball day. After reading the story, we discussed some of the objects that were used to build snow people in the story. The children took these ideas and created snow people on their own with the help of their family. We love seeing the ideas that each family comes up with for their family fun projects but most of all we love to see them working together. They worked very hard and were very creative in building their snow people. Here are some pictures of a few students who worked hard on their project. Maybe you will get some ideas for your next snow day!



**PROJECT DONE BY SEBASTIAN LOPEZ
AND FAMILY**



VARIOUS OTHER PROJECTS



Third Grade Projects at Central Campus

**Submitted by Ms. Walker
Central Campus Music
Teacher**

I would like to congratulate Robert Treat Academy's star Students of the Month. This proves they are really working hard in class and trying to be the best they can be.

The third grade class had an amazing project. During the month of January they have been singing songs and learning about the rights that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for. The main topic was freedom. They also discussed where most spiritual songs were derived from. For their project, they had to imagine their own idea of "Freedom Land." They had to make a visual item, picture or poster using any supplies they wanted to show their idea of a land that's free. They also had to write a paragraph explaining their projects. The projects were absolutely outstanding.

Here are a few pictures of the students' projects and what they wrote. Mia Smith's freedom land would be a land of candy because it makes you think about love. William Abou-Rjaili's freedom land has a soccer field, music all day and an arena. Jibril Shumate-Edwards' freedom land is called "Sports Time." In his land you can play sports all day with your favorite sports players.

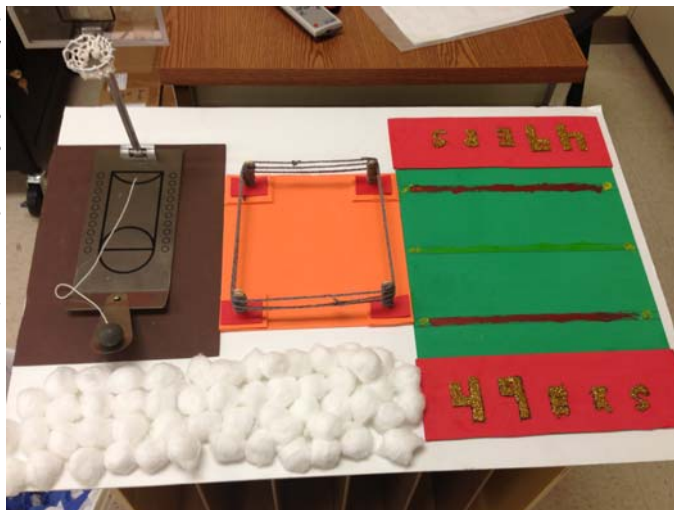
There is just one thing that you should never forget and that is: "Without music, life is a journey through a desert!!!"



**PROJECT
DONE BY
MIA SMITH**



**PROJECT
DONE BY
WILLIAM
ABOU-RJAILI**



**PROJECT DONE
BY
JIBRIL
SHUMATE-
EDWARDS**

Please be advised that
there has been a change in the
PARENT COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Central Campus, Wednesday, February 27th

North Campus, Thursday, February 28th

100% attendance expected



Parent Conferences
will be held
Monday thru Friday
March 4th to the 8th
Late night is Wednesday, March 6th
Appointment book will be
available soon!

New Staff Members

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members to the RTA Family.



Ms. Valeska Cromwell

has been a Registered Nurse for 20 years working in the private sector as well as in the community with adolescents and adults who have Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues. She recently received her School Nurse Certification from Seton Hall University. Ms. Cromwell enjoys teaching Health related practices and hopes to make an impact on the students at Robert Treat Academy.



Ms. Melissa Mendez

joined the Robert Treat Academy staff in December, 2012. After serving seven years in the United States Air Force, she went on to college. She graduated from Essex County College in 2008 with an Associate's in Social Science. Ms. Mendez also earned a degree in English/Secondary Education from Caldwell College in May 2012. She enjoys reading, the theatre, skiing, and white water rafting with her daughter, Natalia. They love embarking on new and exciting adventures together.

**School will be closed on
Friday and Monday,
February 15th and 18th
in observance of
Presidents Weekend!**

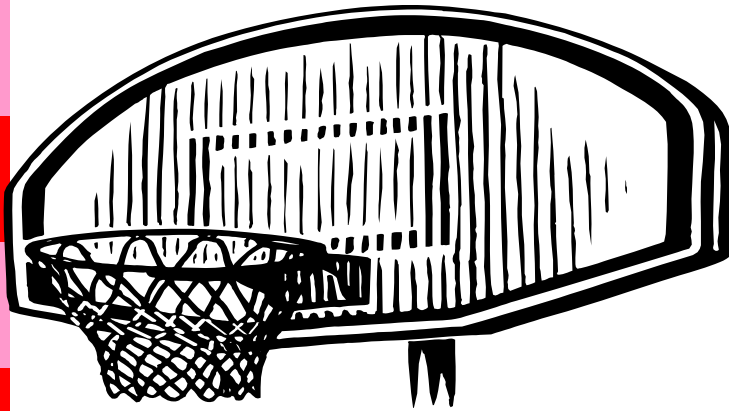


ROBERT TREAT ACADEMY PATRIOTS

C.S.A.L. Basketball League

Boys and Girls Schedule*

All games will be played at Robert Treat Academy.



Tuesday, February 19

Boys at 6PM vs. Jersey City
Community CS

Girls at 7PM vs. TBA

Tuesday, February 26

Girls at 6PM vs. Lady Liberty
Academy

Boys at 7PM vs. Lady Liberty
Academy

Tuesday, February 5

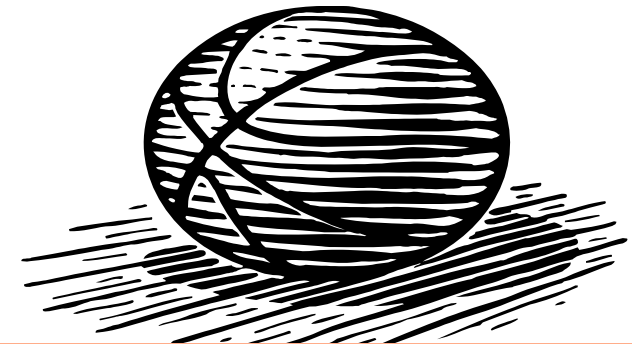
Boys at 6PM vs. Maria L.
Varisco Rogers CS

Girls at 6PM vs. Link Academy
CS

Thursday, February 14

Boys at 6PM vs. University
Heights CS

Girls at 7PM vs. TBA



* Please note that starting
times vary for both Boys
and Girls!

**"Reading aloud with children
is known to be the single most
important activity for building
the knowledge and skills they
will eventually require for
learning to read."**



Marilyn Jager Adams

Project CHILD FIND

1-800-322-8174

Project CHILD FIND is a free referral service and public awareness campaign to assist in the identification of unserved / underserved youth with a delay or disability from birth through twenty-one years of age. In addition, **Project CHILD FIND** develops and distributes information to the public about early intervention services and special education programs throughout New Jersey.

Project CHILD FIND's comprehensive efforts include:

1. Assisting families of infants and toddlers, **birth through two**, concerned about their child's development by directing all requests regarding **early intervention** to the family's local Special Child Health Case Management Unit. If you need the number for your Special Child Health Case Management University

Project CHILD FIND 1-800-322-8174

2. Assisting families of preschoolers, **three through five**, concerned about their child's development by directing requests to their local school district.
3. Helping families access community services through referral.
4. Promoting community and public awareness of all children with disabilities by providing information.
5. Assisting local school district boards of education to identify unserved children from age **three through twenty-one** who are in need of special education and related services, including those students who are migrant or homeless.

Information through **Project CHILD FIND** may be obtained by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-322-8174, which is in service 7 days a week, 24-hours a day. All calls received are confidential.

Project CHILD FIND was established by the New Jersey Department of Education through I.D.E.A., Part B funds from the U.S. Department of Education.

Calendar of School Events

February 14	Thursday	Valentine's Day
February 21	Thursday	Board of Trustees Meeting-5:30 PM
February 27	Wednesday	Central Campus Parent Council Meeting State of the School
February 28	Thursday	North Campus Parent Council Meeting State of the School
March 4-8	Monday thru Friday	Parent Conferences-Report Cards will be distributed. The appointment book will be available soon.
March 28	Thursday	School will close at the end of the school day for Spring Break.

Inclement Weather

Whenever it is necessary to close school due to weather conditions which may develop during evening hours, an announcement will be made on the Robert Treat Academy Web-site. **Go to the Robert Treat Academy homepage at www.roberttreatacademy.org.**

You may also watch the following television news stations.

CHANNEL 2 WCBS NEWS OR VISIT <http://wcbstv.com/schoolclosings>

**CHANNEL 4 WNBC NEWS OR VISIT
<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/weather/school-closings>**

**CHANNEL 5 FOX NEWS OR VISIT
<http://www.myfoxny.com/category/232771/school-closings>**

CHANNEL 12 NEW JERSEY OR LOG ON www.new12.com (Cablevision customers)

Please use the resources listed above to watch for school closing announcements.