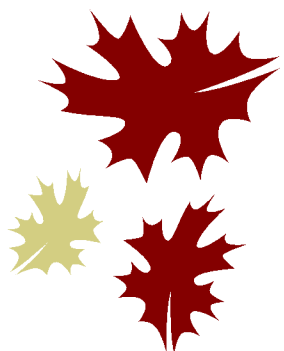


# Trahan Elementary School Newsletter

October 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Donna Mooney  
Principal



## Principal's News

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Hello and Happy Fall! As the leaves begin to turn and children talk of their Halloween costumes I find myself settling in as principal. After setting up a classroom at the end of 35 summers, this was indeed a very different beginning of the school year. I found myself decorating my office with pictures and books and colorful borders to make it feel like "home!" I am enjoying my new position and want to thank all of you once again for your kind words, cards and support as we begin working together for an exciting school year.

I believe it is now safe to say we are back in the school routine. As I walk down the halls and into classrooms, teachers are teaching amazing lessons on Smartboards, children are reading and writing, on computers with Think Central and Study Island and learning our new Go Math program. In addition, our Trahan "pride" have been earning their ROAR tickets and been recognized every Friday. Each and every day our school is a great place to be— for staff and students alike.

Below are a few things to keep in mind as we march through autumn season.

### Pick Up – Drop Off

The pick up / drop off times have been going well. Thank you for your efforts. Please keep in mind the hour of the regular school day. Classes begin promptly at 9:00 AM. Drop off is no earlier than 8:30 unless your child is scheduled for extra help. Teachers begin their inside and outside morning duties at 8:30 AM. Dismissal is at 3:00 PM.

### Proper Dress

As the weather gets cooler, parents are asked to ensure that children are dressed warmly enough for the outdoors. We try to get outdoors at recess time— both morning and at lunchtime-- whenever possible. Also, sneakers are encouraged for safe outdoor play.

### School Council

We have elected our parent representatives. Laurie MacNeil and Christine White will serve on our council for the 2011-2012 school year. Our council meetings will begin this month.

### Study Island and Think Central

As many of you know, all public school systems set technology goals. I am proud to report that we have these internet-based programs for our grade three and four students. These important tools help students to improve performance in all skill areas tested on the MCAS. These programs can be accessed from home. It is the expectation that all of our Trahan students will use these valuable programs. And, we have already had one training for those parents wanting to be more savvy than their children!

## Trahan Important Dates 2011

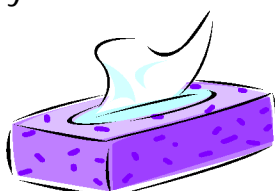
Below are some of the upcoming school and PAC events. Please check your child's backpacks and future newsletters regularly for event additions, changes and updates.

| Date                                     | Event                                   | Location/Time  |
|--|---|--|
| Oct. - Jan. 7th                          | Coat Collection Drive                   | Drop-off gently used adults and kids coats to box in the lobby |
| Wednesday, 11/2                          | PAC meeting                             | Trahan 7:00 PM   |
| Friday 11/4                              | Family Movie Nite                       | Trahan School- doors open 5:45                                 |
| Monday , 11/7                            | Skylab                                  | Trahan/TBA   |
| Tuesday, 11/8<br>(rescheduled from 11/1) | Study Island Information Session        | Ryan School Cafe/ 6:30 PM                                      |
| Friday 11/11                             | Veterans Day                            | NO SCHOOL  |
| Wednesday 11/23                          | Half Day / Early Release / Thanksgiving | 12:00 PM Dismissal / Trahan School / No Extended Day           |
| Thursday 11/24-Friday 11/25              | Thanksgiving Break                      | NO SCHOOL  |
| Tuesday 11/29                            | Conferences                             | 6:30-8:30 PM   |

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Just a reminder:

\*\* With cold and flu season fast approaching, teachers are in need of tissues, hand wipes/sanitizers, disinfecting wipes for their classrooms. Please consider donating a container of each and sending them in with your child. If you have donated, your child's teacher thanks you very much!



# " ROAR "

Many know that the Trahan for years has had TOPPER (Trahan Offers Pride, Promise, Encouragement and Respect) as a successful positive climate school-wide program. This program includes "Topper" (the tiger), our school mascot, who roams the front lobby. As part of TOPPER, we have the program "ROAR" (Respect, Offer Help, Aim to Achieve, and Responsibility). This is a "Catch'em doing something good" program in which students who show Respect, Offer help, Aim to achieve and exhibit Responsibility are recognized. Some of the components of the program are described below:

- a. Tiger Tickets are distributed by staff members to those students who are found to exhibit characteristics of ROAR.
- b. Periodic intercom announcements are made describing/explaining/providing examples of the components of ROAR.
- c. Weekly raffle (Fridays) of Tiger Tickets in which students are recognized and receive a certificate and a pencil for exhibiting desired "ROAR-like" behavior. Winners are called on the intercom!

This program excites the students and has been very successful. It is one of the many strategies we use at the Trahan to ensure a safe, positive and warm school environment.

## Respect

## Offer help

## *Aim to achieve*

## Responsibility

\*\*\*\*Be on the look out for your child coming home with a "ROAR" certificate and a "ROAR" pencil. We will also be having ROAR assemblies periodically to celebrate students "ROARing" at the Trahan!\*\*\*\*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

### Mrs Frost – Room 3

Room 3 has settled in nicely to the school routine. We have been busy learning new spelling and vocabulary words. We have read some very interesting stories, and learned new skills, too!

The boys and girls have been very excited to learn math with the new GoMath series. As we move into chapter 3 of the math program, the students will begin to learn their multiplication facts. Please work with your child to help them master the multiplication facts. Flashcards can be purchased very cheaply at the Dollar Store, or they can be easily made at home with paper or cardstock. Students should begin to practice the facts on a daily basis as we learn them. There are

also some fun websites that they can use to help master facts.


They are:

<http://multiplication.com>

<http://www.fun4thebrain.com/mult.html>

<http://www.gamequarium.com/multiplication.html>

The students are also very eager about the upcoming holidays. We will be pumpkin decorating, having a costume parade, and having a classroom party for Halloween. We will also learn about the Pilgrims and Native Americans as we approach Thanksgiving. Our class is going to be taking a virtual field trip of Plimoth Plantation through a webcast. We will get to see actors portraying the lifestyle and people from the time of the Pilgrims. There are some very exciting learning experiences to look forward to in room 3!



**Providing Homework Support**

- ▶ Set a regular time each day for doing homework. That time should be free of distractions such as TV and phone calls.
- ▶ Be sure your child has a place to do homework that is quiet and well lit. Make sure all the appropriate materials -- such as paper and pencils -- are available.
- ▶ Let your child know that homework is important and valuable. Consistently review your child's homework during homework time.

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### Mrs Aiello & Mrs Lane – Room 4 & 9

In rooms 4 and 9, the children are hard at work studying rocks and minerals in science class! We've been learning about igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, and even performed an experiment with clay to demonstrate how these rocks are formed. . In social studies, we've been studying map skills. Our latest activity involved designing a water park complete with a compass rose and map key!

Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Aiello are working hard with the students on reading fluency and comprehension as well as the new math program. We encourage our students to practice their addition facts at home daily, and to challenge parents to a skip counting contest to help drill multiplication facts!

### Mrs Hyland – Room 5

Room 5 Is Off and ROARing!

North, south, east, west our class is the best. Maybe you've heard this cheer from the social studies students in Rooms 5 & 8 as they master their cardinal directions and apply their skills to creative map making activities. The children love to sing, dance, move and groove as they get excited about learning all across the third grade curriculum. Room 5 has come alive with the use of technology.

Our StoryTown reading series and GO Math programs are both linked to Think Central. This password protected educational site allows students to practice their reading and math skills both in school and at home. Parents are invited to view student assignments and even, in the near future, test results

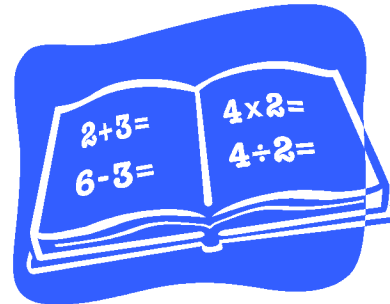
online. Accelerated Reader, another exciting computer based program, has many avid readers testing their comprehension skills and earning points toward reading achievement awards.

This year, thanks to the generosity of the PAC, all students have the opportunity to earn recognition for their dedication to reading. Finally, don't forget to visit Study Island. We journey to this education destination to hone our ELA and Math skills as we prepare for the MCAS testing in the spring. Remember, you can keep up with all the Room 5 activities on our classroom website.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade cont.

#### Ms Mulno – Room 6

The students in room 6 have been very busy adjusting to third grade. In our new math series, GoMath, they have just finished learning about graphs and now are starting to learn multiplication. In science the children are studying rocks and minerals. In social studies they are learning map skills and are looking forward to making their own map of Tewksbury when the "map lady" comes to visit. The children enjoy our morning read-alouds. So far we have read The Mouse and the Motorcycle, James and the Giant Peach and several picture books. All the students are looking forward to our annual Halloween Parade and party on October 28th. Thanks to everyone who has sent in supplies and donated their time to make our classroom such a great place!



#### Mrs Sadler – Room 8

Hello from room 8, and thank you for taking this moment to check out what's happening in your child's classroom. The boys and girls in room 8 have transitioned nicely into their new routine, and they're doing great work! I am impressed with their ability to write and connect lowercase letters in cursive. The class, as a whole, shares a great sense of pride in their new-found talent. Many students occupy their free time with additional practice in order to perfect their signature.

In addition, students appear to be excited about learning multiplication. You will begin to see practice sheets coming home each week. Mastery of multiplication facts 1-12 is expected by the end of third grade.

Therefore, it is important that daily practice becomes part of your child's homework routine.

To say we have been busy is an understatement! Yet, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the support that comes from home, and I want to thank each of you for working with your child on a nightly basis (especially in reading). Also, I am happy to see that many students and their parents have taken the initiative to log on to Study Island, Think Central, and Spelling City. If you have any questions on how to access these tools from home, please feel free to contact me so that I may assist you.

I look forward to our continued partnership and sharing additional updates in the future.

#### Mrs Allard – Room 10

The school year started off with many new friends and fresh faces. Once all of the getting-to-know-you activities were complete, and new friendships were formed, the school year was underway. In math, we have all been introduced to Go Math, our new math program. Our Smart Board has been instrumental in helping us practice the new skills we have learned. We will be exploring some new games that will help strengthen these skills over the course of the year.

I hope you have all had a chance to visit the many websites available for our students to visit at home. Through Think Central, our Story Town reading series allows your child to read at home as well as complete any assignments on their "Things to Do" page. Think Central also offers resources for our new math series.

We also have access to Spellingcity.com where your child can find each week's spelling words and practice with tests or games online. Study Island may be accessed at home as well. Your child may complete any tests that have been assigned. You will notice a weekly quiz with twenty questions will also be assigned. It is a requirement that this quiz be completed each week. We have also been introduced to Accelerated Reader, where students can earn points by taking quizzes on stories they have read. This can be done at home or at school. AR is an incentive program to promote life-long readers.

I am confident that if we work together, your child will have a successful and rewarding third grade experience.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News

### Mrs Cote - Room 7

Room 7 is falling into Math Madness! Unlocking the problem and higher order thinking skills are what it's all about as we embark on our "Go Math" voyage! Keep drilling facts at home, as often as possible. This will help ensure that the basics are solid so that more complex math can be solved easier and with accuracy.

We've just wrapped up Theme 1 of our Story Town reading series – Facing Challenges. Our challenge? We continue to focus on responding to literature by providing thoughtful, evidence-driven, and thorough answers.

Attention to detail is a must! There are no shortcuts to success.

We are moving on in our geography studies from landforms and bodies of water to map skills. In Science, we will be practicing the Scientific Method and generating real-life questions and applications.

A reminder to students that since we are experiencing some inconsistent weather and temperatures recently, it's a good idea to layer clothing and/or keep an extra sweater or jacket at school to avoid being uncomfortable in class or outside. Always be prepared!

Happy Autumn from Room 7!

### Mrs Moorer – Room 11

Room 11 is off to a "Roaring" good start this year. There are signs of "Trahan Respect" everywhere! The students are working very hard in math and reading. In science, we have been exploring the many different ecosystems our earth has to offer. Keep a look-out for our animal dioramas. In social studies, we are finishing map skills and will soon begin our tour of the United States.

Creative writing has been a big hit in Room 11. So far, we have used our imaginations to turn ourselves into falling leaves and pumpkins in a pumpkin patch!

What wonderful, creative students there are in Room 11.

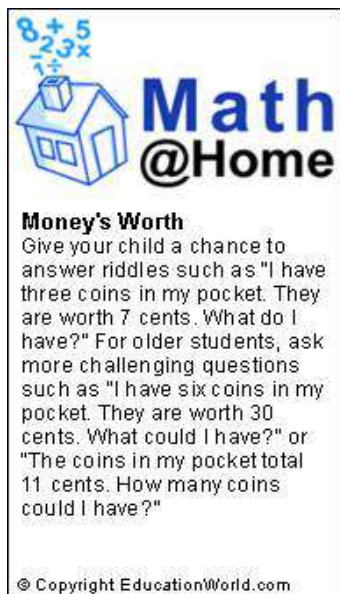
### Mrs Kalarites – Room 12

What's Happening in Room 12? The 2011-2012 school year is underway with "newness" all around. We are pleased to have Mrs. Mooney as our new principal. She has some fresh ideas for all of us. In class the students are off to a good start. We are challenged by our new math program, but adjusting very well. It is so interesting to think about numbers in a different way. Something else new this year, our morning siPod (Study Island problem of the day) questions are providing review and practice of skills we are learning in English Language Arts and Math.

The class had a good time painting leaves in fall colors and watching the

paint run when they were sprayed with water. The students artfully arranged them on paper with their photo and a paragraph telling what they like about fall. I am proud of the fine work they did.

Now we are having a matching game on a bulletin board in the classroom. Students wrote a description of their favorite Halloween costume. Next, they drew a picture of the costume. Both are displayed and the students are trying to match the description to the drawing. We will see how many can match them!





## 4th Grade cont.

### Mrs Kelly – Room 13

Room 13 is off to a great start this year. The students are practicing their multiplication facts using Times Tables the Fun Way. In Science we have started learning about Ecosystems. In particular we have been working in small groups to learn about and construct food chains. The students are also enjoying using RAZ Kids each night as their reading homework.



### Mrs Loosen – Room 14

Room 14 got off to a roaring start this year! The girls and boys have settled in nicely to their new room, and have hopefully gotten used to their new teacher. We're diving into our new math series which does seem different (to their teacher also), but gets the students used to thinking about solving problems using various strategies instead of just learning one process. Many still need to remember to study those math facts daily!

We're very excited about having a new Smartboard in the room. The kids have really helped me learn some of the ins and outs of operating it! Hopefully, we'll be doing more and more lessons on it throughout the school year.

Everybody's been writing up a storm so far! The students have already completed several writing projects. They just finished some Halloween diamante poems which are hanging outside our room. Come by and take a look! This week, they're busily writing some creative Halloween stories with surprise endings. I've included a couple of their poems. Good job Room 14!

#### Bat

black fierce

flying biting hanging

vampire Dracula cave  
wings

scratched swooped screeched

vicious creepy

Halloween

by Matthew Rosemond

#### Haunted House

spooky green

crawling screaming strolling

spiders webs lights music

cringed terrified gaped

purple black

Halloween

by Victoria Post

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade cont.

### Mrs Demos & Mrs Gagne – Rooms 15 & 16

Rooms 15 & 16 are off to a great start!

We have finished chapter 1 in our Go Math Series, and are working our way through Chapter 2. This chapter includes long multiplication, so we would like to remind students that they need to be practicing their facts nightly. These facts should be "snap" fast. ☺ If you are having a tough time on homework, you can access this math series on our ThinkCentral site.

The students were assigned their first book report that is due on November 2nd. We are looking forward to projects that exceed our expectations!!!

We are currently studying the Northeast states in Social Studies and will be working our way across the country. The students have completed postcards from the New England states as their in-class projects.

In Science we continue to work on our Ecosystem unit. We would like to have the students bring in a shoe box and craft supplies to complete a diorama that we will be completing during class time.

Extra help has begun in both classrooms. Mrs. Gagne meets on Mondays until 4:00. Mrs. Demos meets on Tuesday mornings starting at 8:00.

We look forward to a year full of learning and laughter! ☺

### Miss Boudreau – Room 17

Welcome to Room 17! We have been very busy so far this year working hard to become a responsible, respectful classroom community. Each morning Room 17 begins the day with Morning Meeting. The purpose of Morning Meeting is to help build a community and create a climate of trust. It also gives students daily practice in respectful communication. As a community, we have challenged ourselves to become more responsible students this year, both academically and socially.

We have jumped right into the new Go Math curriculum with the determination to try something new, even if it may be challenging or different at first! We are realizing the importance of knowing our basic multiplication, addition, and subtraction facts. Having these facts memorized makes our daily lessons run much smoother! Continue to practice these facts at home– flashcards are a great strategy!

During Reader's Workshop we have just wrapped up Theme 1-- Facing Challenges. The students worked hard and are understanding that when we respond to a story we should include details and voice in our writing!

In Social Studies we have been learning about different landforms and bodies of water. We are now moving into map skills. In Science we have been conducting mini experiments in class to help us become familiar with the scientific method. We discovered how many pennies could fit in a cup filled to the top with water. We also discovered which ball would hit the ground first; a playground ball or a tennis ball. Last, we discovered what happens when syrup, oil, and water are poured into the same cup! Ask your student about these experiments!

Something special Room 17 got to do this year is watch the Disney Movie Holes after finishing a whole class read aloud of the book. We had a chance to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the two! Room 17 is off to a great start!



## Music News

Steven Nahlik, aka "Mr. N"

Starting on a good note

The first weeks of school have flown by and it seems like we never took a summer break (or maybe it's just me). I'm excited to be with these students again. They all seem to be excited about music and I couldn't be more thrilled to be working with them. I only wish that I had more time with the students each week.

Music is an enjoyable hobby for many people, but most don't understand the learning strands that are so closely linked to other subjects. Music is both a culture and a language of its own. You can read it, write it, and communicate it. It has its own history and science.

Due to the large amount of material and limited time in music class, I need your help. My challenge to all of you is to continue their music education at home. You can do this by asking your children lots of questions about what they are learning. Let them be your teachers!

This will reinforce their learning and excite them about what they have learned in class.



The 3rd graders will start the recorder program shortly. This is a truly excellent way for your children to learn music through application; performing on their very own musical instrument.

The recorders have been ordered and should be in shortly. Once they receive them, please be patient with their ability and sound, as they attempt to make music.

Although, chasing the cat around the house as you squeak the recorder is not considered making music.

Soon enough these students will be making great music if they aren't already.

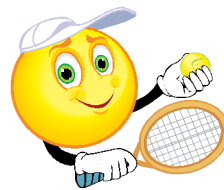
I'm looking forward to an exciting year with all of you.

Sincerely,  
Steven Nahlik, aka "Mr. N"

## P.E. News

Mr. Merry

Mr. Merry started his Monday after-school Tennis program on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 40 fourth grade students signed up for the clinic. There will be 3 six-week sessions. Each session will end with a mini-tournament. Good luck to all the kids! COMING SOON: TUESDAY AFTER-SCHOOL FLOOR HOCKEY!



## Writing News

Mrs Buehler

Welcome back to Writing Class!

We've gotten off to a good start. Everyone is ready to practice developing their writing skills. The focus this year is on making our writing "come to life". So far, we have been working on adding vivid details to sentences and talking about how to use sentence variety to enliven our writing. We've been listening to various literature selections and noticing what authors do to convey their message.

All writing completed this year is being kept in a "Writing Class" folder. By the end of the year, students will have a collection of writing that exhibits their writing talents.



## Art News

### Mrs Malone



On October 8th, The Tewksbury Community of Artists held their annual art show which exhibited selected Trahan student artworks. The following students were selected by The Community of Artists as award recipients: Congratulations to all the recipients.

#### 3rd Grade awards

1st Place - Emily Parr  
 2nd Place - Paige Carpenter  
 3rd Place - Kaitlin MacDonald  
 Honorable Mention: Isabelle Carleton, Gianna Palmisano, Michael Cronin, & Noah Mathurin

#### 4th Grade Awards

1st Place - Caitlin Legvold  
 2nd Place - Thomas Barbati  
 3rd Place - Maia Medina  
 Honorable Mention: Casey Stevenson, Aidan Doherty, & Emma Demos

In art class this year, the third graders have been learning how to shade objects and how to make them look 3 dimensional. They have been working on autumn still life compositions of apples and pumpkins.

The fourth graders have learned to use complementary colors in fall leaf designs. They have also learned to do transfer drawings in which they created symmetrical bug designs from the letters of their names written in cursive.



## Nurse News

### Deb Kraytenberg, RN

I would like to welcome everyone back to school this year. We are off to a great start. As usual, the nurse's office has been busy with a lot of playground casualties. Some rules to remember:

It is very important to keep your child's medical information up- to- date in case we need to reach you in an emergency. Please call or send in a note with new work, home, or cell numbers.

Please make sure that all of your child's necessary medications are at school- this means everything from Tylenol to Epipens- with the appropriate physician's orders. We do not have any extra stock that we can hand out. Cough drops are considered medication and are not allowed in any of the Tewksbury schools.

If your child is absent- please call the school and send a note in after they return stating the reason for the absence. If you do not call the school, expect a phone call.

If you are going on vacation- please send a note to the teacher before you leave.

If your child sees a doctor for his/her illness or injury, please get a doctor's note for the school nurse.

Please remind your children not to share combs, headbands, hats, etc – anything that touches the head -with their friends.

Please keep your child home if he/she has a fever, constant cough, green or yellow nasal drainage, any eye drainage, diarrhea, and / or vomiting. Otherwise, you will be getting a phone call to come pick him/ her up.

## Nurse News cont.

At this age it is important to start talking to your children about their changing hygiene needs. Your children are growing up and their bodies are changing. Many third and fourth graders will need to use deodorant every day. Showering and washing hair daily along with clean clothes becomes a necessity due to hormonal increases. Brushing teeth before school every morning and at bedtime should be part of the normal routine at home. All of these steps help to build a positive body image, increase self-esteem, and develop a healthy lifestyle that will impact the rest of his/her life. Children who appear to be unclean or smell of body odor are at risk of being made fun of by the other children.

As the weather gets cooler, please make sure that your child has on appropriate clothing and footwear for the season. If your child is not dressed warmly enough, he/she will have to stay inside during recess for safety reasons. Flip-flops are never appropriate footwear at school during any season. Children get injured climbing playground equipment and running on pavement, especially when wearing flip-flops. Please send your children to school in sneakers.

This fall we will be doing our annual vision and hearing screenings. If there are any issues, parents will be contacted. The fourth grade students will also be having height, weight, and BMI screenings. All fourth grade parents will be receiving a letter later in the year with that information. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me.

Deb Kraytenberg RN  
School Nurse

## Reading News

Mrs Graves



It was a busy start to the school year with the testing of students for eligibility in the reading program. Students who were found eligible for additional reading help receive supplementary reading instruction in the areas of vocabulary, word attack skills, reading comprehension and fluency. Most of the children are seen in small groups approximately three days per week.

Third grade students who are working on fluency are reading a variety of folktales as plays including Little Red Riding Hood, Stone Soup and The Ugly Duckling. After a lot of practice, students perform the plays for their classmates.

Fourth grade students are working hard on building vocabulary skills and reading comprehension through guided reading and independent silent reading activities focusing on the main idea, details and making inferences. The skill of understanding the main idea is reinforced with the Main Idea Game which requires the students to read a short selection and identify the main idea in order to advance on the gameboard.

During the month of October, students have read and discussed Halloween stories as well as Halloween plays. Students are having fun while learning!