

# PRIMROSE



PTA

Dear Parents,

Greetings!!! We hope you have all transitioned well into the new school year!

In this new paper-limited world, we hope that you are keeping up with all of the PTA happenings via our e-mails. We are sending out one weekly e-mail each Sunday night that is meant to keep you updated on all of the PTA news at Primrose. Occasionally, we will have to send out an additional e-mail during the week but we are really trying to keep it to one e-mail per week. If you have not had an opportunity to sign up for PTA e-mail, please go to our website and do so (<http://www.somersptacouncil.org/PRIMROSE/HOME.htm>).

Our Primrose Book Fair will be held the week of October 26<sup>th</sup> with a Family Night on October 27<sup>th</sup> and “Donuts for Dads” on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The kids will visit the book fair during their library time and have the opportunity to purchase books.

Red Ribbon week will be held the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>. The PTA will again be bringing in Lou DelBianco to put on a show about responsibility and making healthy choices.

Our Yearbook Committee has been hard at work finding a new vendor for the Yearbook. This year, you will be able to purchase your Yearbook online and pay via credit card. They have negotiated a truly fantastic price (lower than last year!) for a book that will be similar to last year. You will be hearing more information about it in the near future. As always, the Yearbook is not a fundraiser and it priced so we simply cover our expenses.

If you have not had an opportunity to send in your Membership form or Directory information, please do so as soon as possible because those committees are trying to finalize the Directory so it can be distributed. Please remember, only Primrose PTA members will get a hard copy of the Directory.

## IN THIS EDITION...

<i>Letter from Our Principal</i>	2
<i>Letter from the Assistant Principal</i>	3
<i>Red Ribbon Week</i>	4
<i>Article: Fostering Conversational &amp; Social Skills in Your Child</i>	5
<i>Kindergarten Update</i>	5
<i>First Grade Update</i>	6
<i>Second Grade Update</i>	7
<i>Enrichment Program Update</i>	8
<i>Box Tops for Education</i>	9

Our Holiday Happiness Committee is hard at work already. We had more than 90 vendors sign up already! This year, instead of the game room, there will be a movie room for the children to go to that will be supervised by adults. You will see information shortly about pre-ordering Somers merchandise. They have selected some really nice items to sell so be sure to be on the look out for that!

If you have any time to volunteer either to help out in the planning of the event or to help out for a few hours that day, please consider doing so. Holiday Happiness is our single largest fundraiser and it supports so many great programs at Primrose.

In closing, thank you to all of the countless volunteers who keep our thriving organization going! We could not do it without you!

**Becky Williams and Kristen Iorizzo**  
PTA Co-Presidents

Dear Parents,

We have had a great start to this school year! The students are all settled in their classrooms, our garden is producing tasty treats, our new gazebo is bursting with library readers, and the school is filled with voices of happy children. I enjoyed seeing so many of you at our recent open houses; for those who were unable to attend, I share my message, below. I look forward to another exciting year at Primrose!

### **Open House Message, September, 2009**

My focus for this year is on our paperless initiative, and how the role of technology can transform the partnership between the school and the home. In my summer mailing to you, I wrote about our responsibilities to make sure that technology doesn't become a barrier to family communication. I described a scene in at Chili's, observing a family having a meal, each person with their head down and lost in a video game, text message or phone call. This isolation was so ironic, as technology is best at connecting people. However, especially for young children, work and play needs to be interpersonal and language based, not simply a TV or videogame time. We need to find this balance.

However, the potential of technology is its power to change the way we learn, connect us with others in the broadest sense, and how we compete in a global economy. Primrose is our primary school, where children and parents begin their school experience in Somers. Going paperless, especially for Primrose students and parents, represents the beginning of this new technology paradigm. The partnership between school and home is evolving and expanding, and it begins with us.

The process of going paperless has been both exciting and challenging, to say the least. For those of you who Twitter, Facebook, Text or Skype, it has been fairly seamless. Our high school students, who live in their own virtual world much of the time, had few problems at all! For others, we've been in close contact since the late summer and provided hours of help. For me as Principal, giving up the security of paper communications, just like the first time I paid a bill on-line, required a huge leap of faith. However, the benefits were many; I really can't remember the last time I wrote a check, licked a stamp or visited the Post Office. Therefore, I wanted to share my thoughts on why we are making this change, and why it is so significant.

### **Why go "paperless?"**

**Sustainability:** One obvious reason is to become more sustainable. It is vital that our schools, as educational institutions, model environmentally appropriate behaviors and procedures. Our students need to live school lives that mirror our values. Therefore, we recycle, collect compost, plant gardens, shut lights and water faucets, and strive to preserve our environment. This summer we harvested vegetables that were donated to the local Food Pantry, and our students were able to experience the cycle of food. Going paperless is one part of this global initiative.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:** Using technology as a tool is a 21<sup>st</sup> century skill. By going paperless, we are making the leap to a web-based mode of communication, research and problem solving. For many families, using technology is an integral part of your lives. For your children, they will quickly enter a world where the use of technology is required as a basic competency. By going paperless, the web will bring families a wealth of resources and accessibility that could not have been possible. We will be building our websites so that you will be informed and connected as never before. We are all working hard to achieve this goal.

**A new partnership and way of learning:** In the same way we ask you to read with your child every day, creating a technology home environment is becoming more and more important. In our own high school, and certainly in colleges, coursework, study guides, assignments and requirements are on-line. Students interact with each other, and with teachers, on Blogs, Wikis and chat-groups. Research is through search engines, Google and Wikipedia. Open access is the norm, and with older students, parents can check attendance, assignments, grades and test schedules with one click of a mouse. This paradigm shift to a paperless system formalizes this change. As a family, you and your child will now begin to use technology as a means to become so much more connected to our schools.

For those users of technology, thank you for joining us in this technology partnership. For those new to technology, please join us on this journey. We will continue to provide help and support. Make sure your email addresses are correct and up to date.

Enjoy the school year!

Sincerely,

Rick Fisher, Principal

# Welcome Back

Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone is off to a great start and enjoying their Primrose School experience. Your children are so excited to be here from the moment they step off of the bus in the morning till the end of the school day.

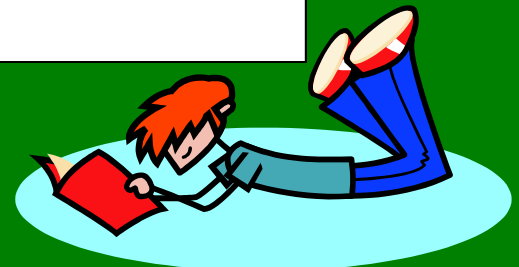
It is important to build on this positive start to the school year and in order to do this we want to make sure to instill in our children good work habits and routines. Good routines become life long habits. Our children are young at this point so take advantage of this gift of youth and time. When children come home from school they should have a place where they can spread out their materials and school work. They also need a relatively quiet atmosphere. And as one of the books I am highlighting below shares, we want to make sure our children have comfortable reading spots. By setting these routines in place early in the school year we are laying the foundation for a successful year.

I have a few books that I recommend to keep the momentum that has propelled our year off to such a great start. The first book I recommend is *The Best Place to Read* by Debbie Betram and Susan Bloom. It shows all of the possible places a little boy has to choose from to read his book. Finding the perfect spot is always a big decision. Another book I recommend is *Reading Makes You Feel Good* by Todd Parr. This book highlights how great it feels to read and all of the wonderful things you can learn. And finally, the last book I recommend is *Hello School! A Classroom Full of Poems* by Dee Lillegard. This book is filled with short, silly poems about school that all are sure to enjoy.

As we head into the fall months please make sure to read with your child every day, find those comfortable reading spots, and savor every moment of your child's school year. As a new mom, I'm learning that times goes by fast and you have to slow down, take it all in and enjoy every moment.

Ms. Anaya  
Your Assistant Principal

to Primrose





# Celebrating the Healthy & Responsible Choices Primrose Students Make

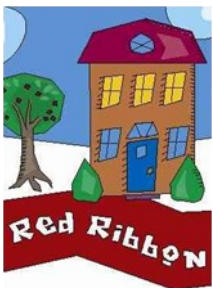
Tuesday, October 20th

Actor/Singer

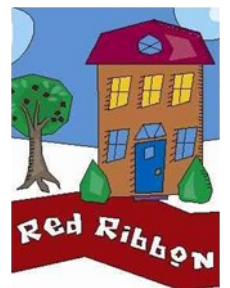
***Lou Del Bianco***

performs his fabulous  
"Make A Good Choice"  
show for grades K-2. Lou  
uses his original songs and  
stories to teach about  
responsibility and making  
healthy choices.

**Remember!**  
**Wear Red**  
**on**  
**Wednesday,**  
**October 21st**



For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Robert Amante  
(914) 391-3523 [rmamante@optonline.net](mailto:rmamante@optonline.net)



# ORDER YOUR 2009/2010 PRIMROSE YEARBOOK

## TODAY!!

*The yearbook will be sold ON-LINE this year by the  
Herff Jones Yearbook Company.*

**The cost is \$15.50 per copy.**

**Sales are open now and will remain open until January 15, 2010**

**If a book is purchased by the deadline, your child  
will be guaranteed a book in June.**



**\*\*\*How to Order\*\*\***



**You can access the Herff Jones order site from the  
Primrose PTA or Edline Website**

**or**

**You may go directly to the Herff Jones website  
www.yearbookordercenter.com and enter order number 18547**

**or**

**Call Herff Jones @ 1-866-287-3096 - order number 18547**

**If you have any questions contact:**

Linda Luciano 248-4880 ([Lindajustducky@msn.com](mailto:Lindajustducky@msn.com))  
or Nina Collins 276-1488 ([Thecollinsclan@optonline.net](mailto:Thecollinsclan@optonline.net))

# Fostering Conversational and Social Skills in Your Child

Prepared by: Fern Blackman, Liz Joline & Danielle Paglia  
*Primrose Speech Language Pathologists*

Communication skills are the foundation for the successful learning and social development. Research suggests that people spend 70-80% of their lives communicating (Ward, J.R., 1990). The following are suggestions that you can use with your child to develop conversational skills:

1. Encourage your child to use appropriate social greetings (hello-goodbye) with family members and peers
2. Acknowledge your child's questions and attempts to start a conversation
3. Ask open-ended questions (i.e., "what did you do?" "Tell me about...") as opposed to yes-no questions.
4. Respond to your child's intended message rather than correcting his punctuation or grammar
5. If you make a comment or ask a question, give your child enough time to answer (i.e. increase the "wait-time")
6. Encourage appropriate ways to interrupt a conversation (i.e., say, "excuse me")
7. Take advantage of naturally occurring interactions to promote conversational skills such as: meal time, car rides and playing board games

Use of these suggestions will help to foster positive social interactions in your child.

# Kindergarten

We are off to a great start in Kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year! The children are settling into the full day routine. The kindergarteners are taking turns with their new friends and learning to care for their classrooms. They have been drawing, painting, looking & listening! They enjoy hearing books and talking about them, too!

Kindergarteners will have gym two times per week and art, library and music one time per week. Please plan for sneakers, clothes that can withstand a little paint, and a library book return each week.

We thank all of our kindergarten families for supporting the work done at school. The good night's sleep, nutritious breakfast and healthy snacks you provide help your child be ready for learning each day. Children are very reassured by healthy routines and are more able to function respectfully and responsibly when they know what is coming next. Reading to your child each night is part of a bedtime routine that will help your child grow into a book lover for life!

Fall has arrived and the children will be learning about apples, pumpkins, and leaves. Our Somers Firefighters will be coming to Primrose to teach us about fire safety and to show us their equipment. We look forward to an exciting fall and a wonderful year!

Your Kindergarten  
Teachers and Teaching Assistants



We are off to a great start in First Grade! The children have seemed happy to be back in school, reunited with old friends and making new ones. The classroom routines and procedures that have been introduced and practiced will help our classrooms run more smoothly all year. The children have adjusted to the new routines and have become eager learners.

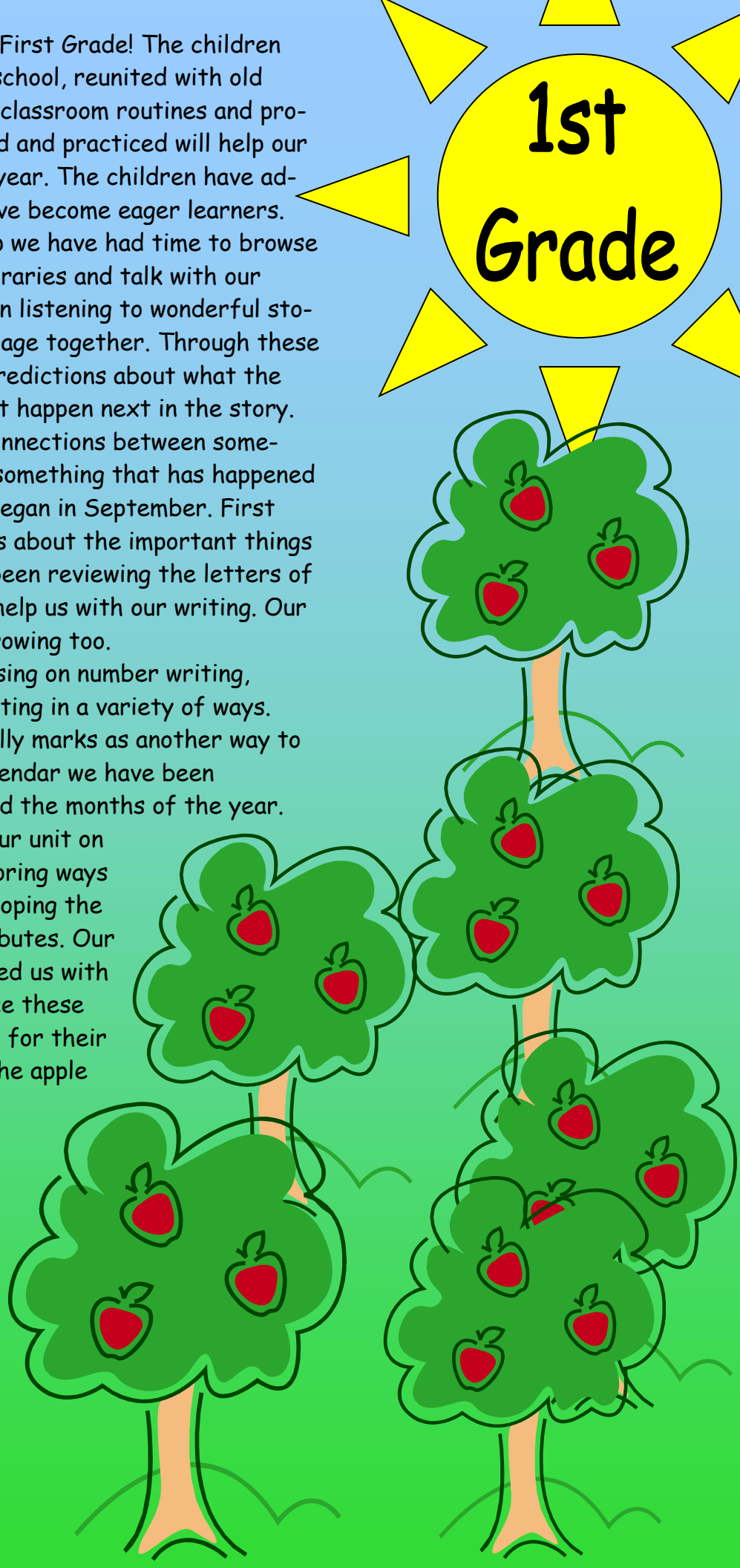
Each day in Reader's Workshop we have had time to browse through books in our classroom libraries and talk with our friends about them. We have been listening to wonderful stories and reading the morning message together. Through these books we have practiced making predictions about what the book might be about or what might happen next in the story. We have also worked on making connections between something we've read in the story and something that has happened in our lives. Writer's Workshop began in September. First Graders have written many stories about the important things or events in their lives. We have been reviewing the letters of the alphabet and their sounds to help us with our writing. Our classroom word walls have been growing too.

In Math we have been focusing on number writing, number recognition skills and counting in a variety of ways. We have been learning to write tally marks as another way to represent a number. Using the calendar we have been reviewing the days of the week and the months of the year.

In Science we have begun our unit on Classification. We have been exploring ways of sorting objects as well as developing the vocabulary to describe their attributes. Our trip to Stuart's Fruit Farm provided us with additional opportunities to practice these skills. A special thanks to the PTA for their help with the cost of our trip to the apple orchard.

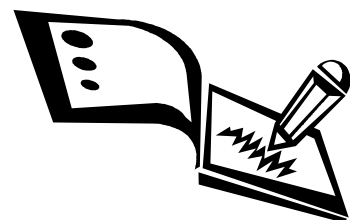
We are looking forward to a wonderful year and many more "firsts!"

Sincerely,  
First Grade Teachers



# 2 N D G R A D E

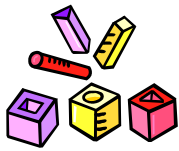
**S**econd Grade is off to a great start. We are working hard on launching reading and writing workshops. Instruction in the areas of math, science, social studies and health have commenced. We would like to thank all the parents who have encouraged their children to read and write over the summer. The practice has paid off. Well done.



We are enjoying the butterfly/ sustainability garden which is in full bloom with sunflowers. The first grade vegetables have been harvested and enjoyed by the local food bank. Now the second graders continue to harvest and the first graders are planting fall and winter produce. We have been busy decorating the bulletin boards and like to look at what other classes put up.

This year promises to be successful and exciting. Thank you in advance to the PTA for all of the wonderful programs, assemblies and authors you provide.

Your Second Grade Teaching Staff



# Enrichment



A goal that we have for all of the Primrose children is to become competent and confident problem solvers. One way that we endeavor to achieve this goal is by having the classroom teacher and the enrichment teacher team-teach to work on math problem solving units.

There are many strategies that the students may use to solve math problems. As you know, there are many ways to solve a problem. For all strategies, the children are learning to follow the Four Step Problem Solving Method. These steps are:

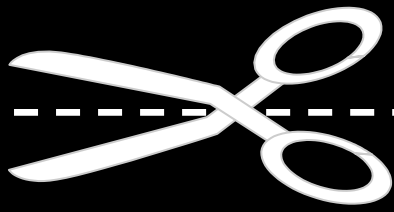
- Step 1- **FIND OUT** the important information, what the problem is, what the problem means, and what question must be answered in order to solve it.
- Step 2- **CHOOSE A STRATEGY** that is best to solve the problem such as Act Out or Draw a Picture etc.
- Step 3- **SOLVE IT**- Work through the problem, find the answer, and record the information.
- Step 4- **LOOK BACK**- Reread the problem and check the solution. Look for errors.

The first strategy that the second graders have learned is “**Act Out or Use Objects.**” In order to solve these problems, the children are moving around various manipulatives such as rulers, bears, chips, straws, pattern blocks, and unifix cubes to solve their word problems.

Presently, the second graders are learning the strategy of “**Make or Use a Picture or Diagram.**” The children are learning how to use or make a picture to solve a problem. The goal of this strategy is for the children to learn how to draw simple pictures to solve problems or to use pictures to solve problems. Examples of this include map reading, drawing a picture of a room in the house, looking at the picture on the outside of the box when making models, and drawing diagrams of animals, machines, trees and flowers etc.

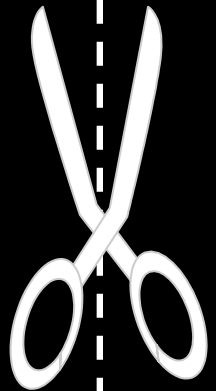
First grade will begin their study of problem-solving in late October.

Kindergarten will be given an overall introduction to problem solving by the classroom teacher.



Raise  
Money for  
Primrose

CLIP THEM OUT &  
SEND THEM IN.  
YOUR CHILD WILL BE ENTERED  
TO WIN FUN PRIZES!



September's Winners:  
B. DeFeo, M. Hannan,  
M. Widaron, M. Combs,  
B. Halper, R. Lamb, N. Pappas,  
J. Hannan, T. DalCeredo

The class with  
the most Box Tops  
WINS AN ICE CREAM PARTY  
in June

# Pajama Party

Friday  
November 20th  
6:30 - 8:30pm  
Somers Sports Center  
Rt. 100  
Somers

Dress the kids in their coziest PJ's and join the  
**Somers Newcomers & Neighbors**  
for some FAMILY FUN to benefit the



Bed time stories & book signing by  
**Karen Kaufman Orloff**, author of *I Wanna Iguana*

Live children's music performance

Magician      Juggling      Balloon Animals      Goody Bags  
Popcorn      Cotton Candy      Cookies & Milk



Admission: We kindly request the donation of 1 NEW pair of kids PJ's for each ticket purchased

Tickets: \$8 per child in advance (by 11/12),  
\$10 per child at the door  
Parents - FREE