

April 2008

# Fillmore Connections

*“Making A Better World One Student At A Time”*



Millard Fillmore Elementary  
315-497-2670  
[www.moraviaschool.org](http://www.moraviaschool.org)

## Important April Dates:

- 4/4 OM State Competition
- 4/8 Board of Ed Mtg 7pm
- 4/9 Report Cards
- 4/10-4/17 No School- Good Friday and Spring Recess
- 4/22- Board of Ed Mtg 7pm
- Yello Dyno Parent Workshop 6:30-7:00



Mrs. Szymanski, Mrs. Bergeron, Mrs. Ranke, Ms. Fiorillo, Miss Clancy, and the kindergarteners say goodbye to the “talking tree.”

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## Let's Dance!

Imagine a teaching artist from Puerto Rico with conga drums, beating the salsa, as our Millard Fillmore Elementary students keep beat with their hands and their heads! Visiting teaching artist Jorge Cuevas drew his audiences into the rhythms of Central and South America as he demonstrated the various hand positions for beating, or tapping, or patting the various instruments he brought on Monday, March 23, 2009. Jorge Cuevas is teaching Latin American music and dance at our school as part of our Costa Rica, What is

Sustainability? project.

Following the assemblies for our entire student body, Mr. Cuevas then taught our fifth grade students a number of Meringues dance moves. Second grade students were treated to stories from Mr. Cuevas' boyhood. The Elementary Stage Band, with assistance from Mr. Chris Little, our instrumental music teacher, worked with Mr. Cuevas to improvise a Latin American percussion piece that accompanied their performance on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The entire school watched

and then participate in a musical and dance performance.

Several generous supporters for Arts in Education are helping to fund this and Holly Adam's work with our second and fifth graders. Partners for Arts Education gave our school an ArtStart grant, McDonald's Restaurants awarded a MAC grant and our own Student Council generously donated money for this year long project. We will have a huge Costa Rica Festival at our school on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Save the date!

## Principal's Corner



Principal Howard Seamans

Dear Families,

Happy Spring! (A bit early - some wishful thinking on my part...) There are so many things going that I thought it best to separate them by past and future:

Looking back - Since our last letter we have been active on the budget committee, prepared for, administered, and graded the NYS Math assessments, enjoyed the wonderful all-district choral choir concert, hosted a successful roller-skating party, helped coordinate the initial construction planning, had some very exciting success at Odyssey of the mind competition, administered the Math

Field test, brought the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades to the High School for a viewing of the magnificent *Sound of Music* presentation. Congrats to Ms. Brehaut, Mr. Little, the stage hands, the orchestra, and, of course, to the wonderful actors! Additional thanks to all of the others involved in re-organizing the lunch schedule - teachers and Ms. Parker-Smith, and all of the aides and assistants that made the day run so smoothly. Bravo for that ambitious and entertaining program! Thank you for your support! We viewed great work from budding scientists at our annual science fair on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Mrs. Warner! We had our Superintendent Conference day where teachers worked on a variety of subjects including: improving writing and the application of the HSP Math program, the district web site, the physical moving of rooms, Running Records, etc. We had a unique culture-enhancing opportunity thanks to Ms. Kinney's efforts with the Costa Rica project. Mr. Cuevas visited the building and led children

through a "hands-on experience" with Latin music and dance.

Looking forward - April will find us as busy as ever! Four Year Old Night is scheduled for Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We'll be reminding children about bus safety during our bus drills for busers *and* walkers in the first couple of weeks of the month. Please remind children that seat belts are mandatory and that their continued cooperation will insure their safety. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade will continue to prepare for and take the NYS Science Assessment and that will take us into the Spring break (Good Friday - Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.) We're excited to be able to provide the Yello Dyno workshop on Thursday, April 23. Mark your calendars as this program will offer very important information regarding child safety to parents at 6:30 p.m. of that same evening. Many of you have shared that it is important to you to educate your children about how to deal with strangers who may mean them harm. The Yello Dyno program does a great job giving children practi-

cal skills while keeping them from being fearful of common interactions. Truly an opportunity to learn a great approach for keeping our children safe - remember when considering matters of safety, the value is in the follow through - kids need to hear this information from adults who are important to them!

Be sure to fill out the scheduling forms so that we may consider your thoughts for the upcoming class list preparations. We are excited and a bit nervous as we head into the initial construction stages of the project. Some of you have called to share your thoughts - please feel free to do so at any time. The actual work schedule will no doubt change as construction projects inevitably do. I thank teachers and parents for their flexibility in what will ultimately be great improvements to our facility. "Temporary inconveniences for great, permanent changes."

Happy Spring!

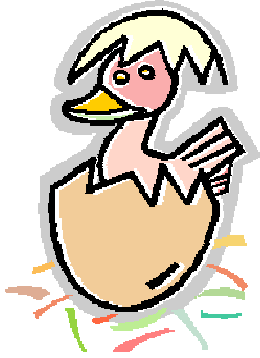
Howard Seamans



## Pictures from Jorge Cuevas' visit



## Kindergarten News



Thank you FFA! We enjoyed the opportunity to see all of the farm animals at barnyard day. It helps us get into the spirit of the spring season. We will also be looking for other signs of spring. We will read about animal mothers, babies and which hatch from eggs.

HAPPY SPRING! From: Miss Clancy, Ms. Fiorillo, Mrs. Bergeron & Mrs. Ranke

Mrs. Ranke's Kindergarten class walked to the Moravia Post Office several weeks ago to mail their "Flat Stanleys" to friends and relatives. Flat Stanley is a book, written by Jeff Brown, where a little boy (Stanley) has a bulletin board fall on top of him and he becomes 1/2" thick. He has many adventures, one in which he gets mailed to California via the

US Postal Service. So, we decided to mail Flat Stanley to various places in the United States. He was sent to Florida, North Carolina, Wyoming, and even Hawaii! We are looking forward to him arriving back home this week! We will record where he went on our big map of the United States of America in our hallway! HURRY HOME, STANLEY!

## Kindergarten Registration

Registration for children who are eligible to enter Kindergarten this fall will be held at the Thursday, May 7 meeting from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Millard Fillmore Elementary School cafeteria. Packets for registration will be handed out at the Kindergarten Informational meeting on April 2 at

6:30 in the cafeteria. For those parents unable to attend, registration packets will be mailed. Parents who have not received registration papers by the week of April 9 should call the elementary office at 497-2670 in order that we may send them to you prior to registration.

To be eligible to enter Kindergarten in September, a child must be five years of age on or before December 1, 2009. Parents must bring a birth certificate, proof of immunizations, proof of dental appointment and copy of a current physical at the time of registration.



## From the Computer Lab



Kindergarten through second grade has been working with a program called Earobics, which works on listening and ELA skills. Students must sign in to play, and they have become experts at usernames and passwords! Even the kinder-

garteners can type their names with correct capitalization. Third graders have been working from a variety of websites, working on typing stories about spring, and making Women's History posters with Microsoft Publisher. Fourth graders have

been working on Women's History Power Point presentations. Fifth graders have been working on women's history and biography Power Point presentations, as well as state research.

## Access Web Links from Home

If you have internet at your house it is possible to access all of the links we use in class. All of the links we use are compiled at an online bookmark site called ikeepbookmarks, which the kids are familiar with. Type [www.ikeepbookmarks.com/mfstudent](http://www.ikeepbookmarks.com/mfstudent) into the address bar of your web browser (Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, etc.) and you will see many folders and links. Links are organized by subject and/or class, although anyone can use links from any folder. There are also several general websites with many fun and useful activities in all subject areas.

## CHAD- DART News

### Commercials

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Children in the US see 40,000 commercials each year. You can teach your child to be a savvy consumer by talking about

what he or she thinks about the products being advertised as you're watching TV together. Ask thought-provoking questions like, "What do you like about that? Do you think it's really as good as it looks

in the ad?" and "Do you think that's a healthy choice?" Explain that commercials are often meant to make people want things they don't need. These ads are often meant to make us think that the products will make us happier

somehow. Talking to kids about what things are like in reality can help put things into perspective. From: MSN Health and Fitness - Kid's Health

## Nurse's Notes

### INFORMATION AND POLICY ON HEAD LICE

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the human scalp and feed only on human blood. Females lay eggs at the base of a hair strand, where they need a temperature of 88 degrees to survive. These eggs, which are black and commonly called nits, will hatch in 7-10 days. The newly hatched females are able to lay eggs 10 days later. Lice don't carry disease, but a sensitivity or allergic reaction to the saliva of the louse's biting the scalp causes itching. After the egg has hatched it leaves behind a white casing which stays attached to the hair strand, sometimes for months.

The only way to spread head lice is through direct head contact, like whispering, hugging, working closely together on projects (with heads touching), and sharing of hair accessories such as hats and combs. If your child comes home with head lice it is recommended to use special over the counter or prescription shampoos. According to information obtained from the Entomology (insect) Department at Cornell University, and a recent article published in "The Citizen" on March 6, 2009, the best and most natural treatment to use is olive oil. Apply olive oil to dry hair and leave in for five hours (head lice can hold their breath for four hours), then wash out with dish soap to cut the grease. Repeat this treatment in exactly 10 days to eliminate any new lice that have hatched. Special combs should be used to remove **ALL** nits.

The above mentioned sources state that vacuuming, bagging up toys, spraying furniture, etc. is not needed since lice can only live a very short time without its human host. Laundering in hot water and high heat dryer for bedding, clothes, coats, and hats **IS** recommended. Soak combs, brushes, and barrettes in hot soapy water.

The school policy on dismissal/exclusion is as follows:

1. Students with live lice need to be picked up by parent and treated; a student can be treated and returned to school on the same day. A note is sent home with the entire class.
2. When a student returns to school after being treated, they need to report to the nurses' office accompanied by a parent. The student will be checked by the nurse, and readmitted to class if no lice are found.
3. Students with live nits may stay in class; a phone call is made to parents to treat and comb all nits out of hair. A note is sent home with the entire class.
4. Students with old nits may stay in class, and a note is sent home to parent to comb all old nits out of hair.

Due to the increasing number of illnesses/ infections in school, here is some information on symptoms, treatments, and precautions that may help in the continuing care of your child.

| ILLNESS           | SYMPTOMS                                                                                       | TREATMENT                                                               | PRECAUTIONS                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PINK-EYE          | Redness, itchi-ness,<br>yellow drainage,<br>eyelids red or<br>crusted over.                    | Cold compress, Dr. visit: anti-biotic drops or ointment.                | <u>Good handwashing!</u> ,<br>keeping fingers/hands<br>away from eyes; Students<br>return when treatment<br>has begun.                |
| "STREP<br>THROAT" | Sore throat, fe-<br>ver, inflammation<br>of throat and<br>tonsils,<br>enlarged lymph<br>nodes. | Dr. visit: throat cul-<br>ture; antibiotic<br>therapy for 7-10<br>days. | Replace child's tooth-<br>brush after 24hrs. on an-<br>tibiotics. Students return<br>after 24hrs. on antibiot-<br>ics and fever-free. |

## Congratulations to Moravia Odyssey Teams



Congratulations to Moravia's entire Odyssey of the Mind Teams who participated in the Regional competition held Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at Auburn BOCES competing against over 60 teams from 9 area schools. The competition involved both long term and spontaneous problem solving.

Long term problems encourage students to think divergently through the solving of open-

ended problems. Students learn to work together as a team to identify challenges and think creatively in their solutions. NASA is one of the many supporters of the Odyssey of the Mind Program.

Spontaneous is just that. Students are given one of the three types of problems (verbal, verbal/hands-on, hands-on) to respond to on the spot. They are allotted a short

think time to discuss their approach and strategy and then must respond within a given time. Creative and thinking "outside the box" are rewarded with extra points.

Two out of five teams will represent Moravia at the state competitions held April 4<sup>th</sup> at the SUNY Binghamton campus along with their coaches Mrs. Celeste Carmichael, Mrs. Julie DeWitt and Mrs. Rose Bergeron, Moravia's new Gifted/Talented Coordinator.

Mrs. Carmichael's Division I team, comprised of Makenna Benson, Joshua Campanella, Cara Carmichael, Madison Hares-Ryan, Lexington Stoyell, Ridge Walker, and Autumn Wells, took first place for their solution and performance of Teach Yer Creature. The team created a humorous performance centered on a mechanical creature that acted like a real mammal or bird and also learns lessons, one of which that was to be learned accidentally by observing others. The creature performed tasks by

traveling, eating, or turning its head.

The second team, lead by Mrs. Julie DeWitt, comprised of Julia Babcock, Aimee Glenister, Chelsea Hagin, Chris Kehoe, Mackenzie Miller, Marie Olaszewski, and Whitney Taylor will be representing Moravia at the state competition in Division III for their solution of the problem Superstition. It is with great pride that these young individuals were recognized for their exceptional creativity and their ability to think outside the box and were awarded the Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award. This award represents the essence of Odyssey of the Mind and winning in their division is not a criterion for winning the award; rather, the award is a way to acknowledge and encourage creative thinking and risk-taking.

Please congratulate these young individuals if you see them and come to Binghamton April 4<sup>th</sup> for what is to be an awe inspiring day watching teams work together creatively.



### Pennies For Patients

There are boxes to collect change for Pennies for Patients in all classrooms. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 and we are about half way there!

Pennies for Patients ends April 9th, so bring in your change today!

## School Fundraiser Update



In preparation for the annual Cherrydale Fundraiser which will occur in September 2009, the coordinators of the sale felt it important to inform parents of some changes that will be made this year:

- Money will be due at same time the order forms are due instead of when merchandise is delivered.

- This year, Cherrydale is excited to offer frozen food! Please keep in mind that you will need a place to keep these items before delivering them to your customers.

The money collected from this sale directly benefits the students at Millard Fillmore. In years past, the money has

helped: buy playground equipment, fund the 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Casowasco, sent classes to the Planetarium, brought assemblies to the school and donations have been made to community causes such as The Make-a-Wish Foundation and The Powers Library. Please plan on helping our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in this fundraiser!



# Can and Bottle Drive

Benefit the Elementary Yearbook Club

Parking Lot across from Kinney Drugs

May 9, 2009 9-1 pm



Donations of refundable  
bottles and cans accepted.



## Auburn YMCA-WEIU Before and After School Program

**Who:** For children Kindergarten-11 years

**What:** A quality after school program to accommodate working parents

**When:** AM care begins at 6:30, children release to class

**Register at:** Auburn YMCA-WEIU

27 Williams Street

Auburn, NY 13021

The YMCA-SACC Program provides a fun, game-filled, and safe environment for your child. Activities include homework time, arts and crafts projects, and gym games.

**This program is licensed by NY State**

Registration forms must be completed prior to attendance. Forms are available at the Auburn YMCA or at the school site.

For additional information, please contact Joni Brown, Child Care Director at the YMCA.

**Auburn YMCA 253-5305**

**Moravia site 497-2670 ext. 1207**

**497-2239**

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We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.