

# CROCKER CHRONICLES

**January 26, 2012**

Dear Crocker Farm Families,

Last week we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Amherst College Day. Around 50 Amherst College student-athletes, coaches and professors came to the school to talk with our students about the work that is involved in studying in higher education. Mr. Morris has 'tweeted' all the details on the school website (<http://cf.arps.org/>), so for now here is my favorite line from the Daily Hampshire Gazette article that followed this highly successful and powerful event:

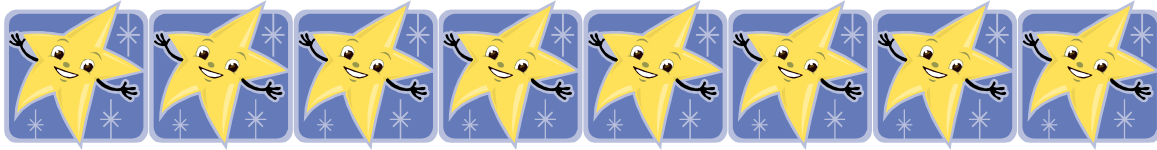
Afterward, Mike Morris said, several students told him they want to be like the student athletes they met. One who was in the psychology group said she now knows about different parts of the brain and wants to learn more, said Morris. "They identified themselves as future college students," Mr. Morris said.

## **HOW COLD IS TOO COLD TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO PLAY OUTDOORS?**

During typical winter days, common sense requires us to look beyond a specific temperature and consider factors such as wind chill, whether or not the sun is shining, how well the children are prepared to play outdoors (jackets, gloves, and hats), what activity the children are participating in, and the length of time to be spent outside. I do want to remind everyone that it is the intention of the school to hold recess during cold spells. To that end I encourage all of you to adequately prepare your child to play outdoors (jackets, gloves, and hats). With respect to morning recess, which is often held during the coldest part of the day, I will go outside in the morning at around 8:15am to access the conditions. In addition I will consult my trusty UMASS Amherst Computer Science Weather Station weblink. We will then make an informed decision as to whether we have inside or outside recess.

Sincerely,

Derek Shea  
Assistant Principal



# CROCKER CHRONICLES

26 de enero de 2011

Queridas Familias de Crocker Farm,

La semana pasada llevamos a cabo nuestra 2<sup>da</sup> semana anual de Amherst College Day. Cerca de 50 estudiantes-atletas, entrenadores y profesores de Amherst College vinieron a la escuela a hablar con nuestros estudiantes acerca del trabajo que conlleva estar estudiando en una institución de educación superior. El Sr. Morris 'tweeted' todos los detalles en la página web de la escuela (<http://cf.arps.org/>), así que hasta ahora esta es mi línea favorita del artículo en el Daily Hampshire Gazette luego de haber tenido este exitoso y poderoso evento:

Luego, Mike Morris comentó que varios estudiantes se le acercaron y dijeron que desean ser como los estudiantes atletas que conocieron. Uno de los estudiantes que se encontraba en el grupo de psicología dijo que ella sabe acerca de las diferentes partes del cerebro y desea aprender más, dijo Morris. "Ellos se identificaron como futuros estudiantes de Universidad," dijo Mr. Morris.

## **¿CUAN FRIO ES FRIO ANTES DE PERMITIRLE A LOS ESTUDIANTES DE SALIR A JUGAR AFUERA?**

Durante los días típicos del invierno, el sentido común nos requiere mirar mas allá de una temperatura específica y tomar en consideración factores como el viento, ha o no ha salido el sol, cuan bien preparados están los niños para salir a jugar afuera (abrigo, guantes y sombrero), en qué actividades están participando los niños, y la cantidad de tiempo que se estará pasando al aire libre. Les quiero recordar a todos que es la intención de la escuela tener recreos durante las olas de frío. Para ello les exhorto a todos ustedes a preparar a su niño adecuadamente para jugar afuera (abrigo, guantes, sombrero). Con relación al recreo de la mañana, que se lleva a cabo durante la hora más fría del día, yo salgo afuera por la mañana alrededor de las 8:15am para asesar las condiciones del tiempo. Además de consultar con la página de web de UMASS Amherst Computer Science Weather Station weblink (enlace con la estación climatológica de UMASS). Luego tomamos una decisión informada en cuanto a tener el recreo al aire libre o bajo techo.

Cordialmente,

Derek Shea  
Asistente de Principal

## COACHES' CORNER

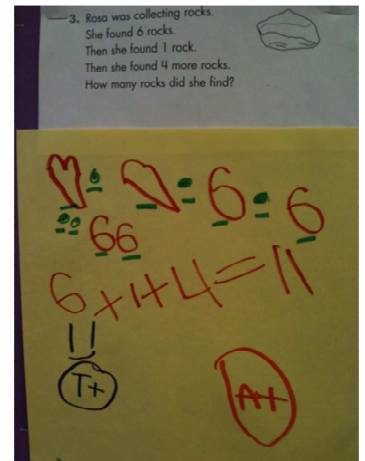
In the last Crocker Chronicles, Stephanie Joyce shared literacy news with you. In this Coaches' Corner, I will share math news from our school.

– Sharri Conklin, Math Curriculum Leader



**MATH PUZZLES** – Izzy Clark and Kai Harwood have been working on creating a way to get students excited about doing mathematical puzzles. As 6<sup>th</sup> graders, they worked on Zupelz (number puzzles similar to Sudoku) and wanted to share their enthusiasm with others in the Crocker Farm Community. They have created a bulletin board outside of Room 32 that displays the weekly puzzle and asks for solutions. Both Izzy and Kai will collect solutions and share data on the number of students who complete them. They are beginning in the upper grades, and hope to move to the primary grades in the coming weeks.

**STORY PROBLEMS** – In the primary grades, students are beginning to work with Story Problems. They are applying what they know about how numbers go together (addition and subtraction) to real life situations. Not only is it important for students to be able to compute numbers, but they also need to interpret what a problem is asking for them to do with those numbers. Do I take away? Do I find the difference? Am I putting numbers together? Here are some examples of student work:



**FIRST IN MATH** – [www.firstinmath.com](http://www.firstinmath.com) - Your children have had access to the First in



Math website since the fall. Many students have reported spending time at home working in the Number Gyms to practice facts and unlocking new bonus games. Teachers have provided time for students to log on in class during enhancement block and at other times

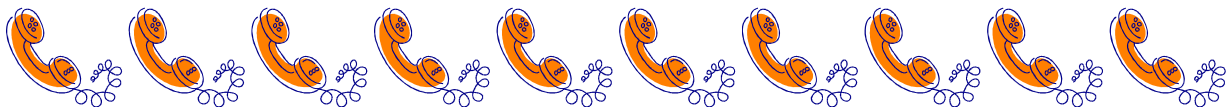
during the day. Students have also logged on during their technology block with Ms. Breen. This is a great way for students to practice math skills! If you need help accessing the internet to log on, please feel free to ask for help from me, Ms. Breen or Ms. Tara Luce. We'd be glad to help you. If your student needs his/her username and password again, classroom teachers, Ms. Breen and I have a record.

Dear Parents and Guardians of Crocker Farm children,  
Attached, you will find a copy of the 2012 Crocker Farm Directory database. The PGO Executive Board has decided not to print this database as a document because only 97 families responded to our many pleas for updated information. The cost of printing a copy of the directory for each family is close to \$400. Since so few families updated/submitted information, we felt it would be better to spend those \$400 elsewhere.

I can tell you, from personal experience, that when I tried to invite twelve people to my son's birthday party, I was only able to find information for four of the twelve people in the attached database.

Next year, in order to avoid an incomplete directory, we will ask families to opt out of the directory, by check marking a box on a form that will arrive home with the initial "Welcome Back" school packet. Hopefully we will get enough people to make a hard copy run of a comprehensive directory for 2012-2013.

Thank you for your time and understanding,  
Angela Mills  
Co-Chair of the PGO at Crocker Farm Elementary



Queridos padres y guardianes de los niños de la escuela Crocker Farm,  
Aquí les mandamos una lista de los alumnos para este año. Los directores del grupo de padres y guardianes hemos decidido no imprimir una libreta con la información de cada familia porque solamente 97 familias respondieron con su información. El gasto de imprimir algo que realmente no refleja la comunidad en total sería una pérdida de \$400. Decidimos usar el dinero ayudando a los maestros y comprándoles materiales a los niños.

Yo les puedo comentar, de una forma muy personal, que cuando busque a doce nombres de niños para invitarlos a un cumpleaños en nuestra casa, solamente había información para cuatro de los doce en esta lista.

El próximo año, antes que empieza el año escolar, para evitar esta situación complicada, les mandaremos un formulario que dice "por favor no incluyen nuestra información personal en la guía telefónica de Crocker Farm." Lamentamos esta situación y trabajaremos para enviarles una guía útil y completa para 2012-2013.

Gracias por tomar el tiempo para leer este anuncio,

Angela Mills Ayudante del PGO en la escuela Crocker Farm



Weather Delays/Cancellations:

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** If the weather is inclement in the morning, please refer to the following to learn whether school will be cancelled or delayed:

**RADIO:**

WHYN: 93.1

WHMP: 1400 AM 99.3 FM

**TELEVISION: These local channels carry cancellation or delay in opening announcements beginning around 6:30 AM.**

WWLP: Channel 22

ABC40

The Amherst school system also has a telephone **NEWS LINE** which will carry announcements of school closings and/or delays due to poor weather conditions. Call the **NEWS LINE** at **362-1898** beginning at 6:30 AM. **Please do not call the schools.**



**LOST and FOUND:**

**Is your child missing a coat, a sweatshirt, hat or gloves?? Please take a minute to stop by and check out the lost and found items. They are all on display for the next week in the hallway by the cafeteria. Everything unclaimed will be donated to the Amherst Survival Center over the February break. Thank you!!**



## The Nields Sisters Concert



**Coming Friday, February 3, 2012 for Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**10-10:45 in the CF Cafeteria**

**ALERT!!! TOMORROW: FRIDAY, January 27, 2012-NO SCHOOL**

**PREK thru 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE-TEACHER WORKDAY!!**

Tuesday, January 31-Late Start Discussion-7-9pm- Crocker Farm Cafeteria

**ABSENT LINE:** Parent/Guardians are required to call the absentee line, 362-1659 if your child will not be in school. If your child is tardy to school, please have him/her stop by the office for a pass before going to class. **Call before 9:00 to avoid getting an automated phone call.**

**Linea para reporter ausencias:** Se les require a todos los padres/encargados que se comuniquen con la escuela llamando al telefono 362-1656 si su hijo(a) va a estar ausente. Si su hijo(a) va a llegar tarde a la escuela por favor asegurese que su hijo (a) se reporta a la reporta a la oficina primero.

### **SAFETY:**

- Please enter and exit through the **main entrance** during the school hours, 8:30-3. All doors will be locked from 9-2:45, including the main entrance.
  - All visitors/parents entering the building are required to stop into the main office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. **DO NOT** go directly to your child's room. We will be happy to assist you!
  - If your child will be taking an alternate route home please send a note to inform the teacher otherwise they will go home their regularly scheduled route. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
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