



ROGER SHERMAN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

September 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another new and exciting school year at Roger Sherman. We're happy to have a new group of parents join our school family and thrilled to see our old friends back again. We hope everyone has had a happy and healthy summer and is ready to get involved in the 2011-2012 school year. Here is a list of Sherman PTA-sponsored programs and events that need your help. **Committee chairs are already in place. Your help is needed to join in supporting them on their committees.** They all depend on parent participation for their success. Please review the list and be as generous with your time as possible. Volunteering is a great way to get involved, meet new friends and have fun, too!

Remember, your enthusiasm and talent are a must to make these programs a success at Roger Sherman! Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with all of you this year.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Falletta
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Sherman School PTA
PTA Volunteer Coordinator

ONGOING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

BUY-A-BOOK - Students love the honor of having books dedicated to them! Volunteers needed to set up merchandise, staff the event, and label books.

ENRICHMENT - Enrichment is an opportunity for parents to select and arrange fabulous curriculum-enhancing in-school events featuring science, arts, social studies, language arts, etc. for each grade level (with committee). Tasks include: meet with committee a few times per year; phone calls/emails to book the programs; and attend the program on the day of the event. Enrichment is such a huge and vital part of the “Sherman School Experience”; one that we cannot afford for our children to miss.

FIFTH GRADE COMMITTEE - Parents of fifth grade students help organize and run various fund raising events (Sherman Skates, Election Day Bake Sale, Tag Sale, Pie Sale, Pasta Dinner, Pancake Breakfast, Spring Fair, and Car Wash). The funds raised go toward the class gift, 5th Grade yearbook, and help offset the cost of the class trip. In addition, special events like D.A.R.E. graduation, Field Day/Movie Day and end of year party are planned. The previous year's committee leaders have left detailed notes, and the fundraising has already begun with ice cream sales last June! There's LOTS to do with this committee, so if you've got a 5th grader, please join the team of parents and 5th-grade teachers and help to make the final Sherman year truly memorable. A Fifth Grade Committee Chair is already in place, but looking for parents who would like to chair one of the events or simply be an event team member.

GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS - Assist in collecting, trimming and counting of General Mills Box Tops, which we redeem for money to help subsidize PTA programs at Sherman. This is an excellent position for the parent with preschoolers, since most of it can be done at your convenience from home.

GUIDED READING ROOM - We need volunteers to cover 3 days a week (any time of day) to put away the guided reading books, and to maintain organization. You may sign up for once a week, or every other week, as your schedule allows. Ideal if you are able to stay after drop off, and spend 15 – 45 minutes in the resource room. This is separate from the library; the collection consists of the books used in children's classroom reading groups. Training will be provided.

LANDSCAPE - “Adopt” a flowerbed outside the school or in the courtyard to keep Sherman School looking its best for all of us. This work can be done almost anytime. This is a good possibility for working parents.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER - The Sherman Library Media Center (LMC) is a wonderful place to spend a few hours a week, as your time permits. Your children love to see you when they come in to find books or work on projects. You will see how the media center plays an integral part with their curriculum units. Jobs include working at the circulation desk, shelving books, creating displays, processing, organizing and assisting students. We will be happy to work around your busy schedule, and we are very flexible.

LUNCH AND RECESS MONITOR - Assist staff in monitoring children at lunch and during recess. This is especially helpful for younger students. This is a very flexible position as you can help out as your schedule permits.

OFFICE HELP - Volunteers are needed in the office to listen to and record absentee messages from 8:45 -9:15am. Other help would include filing the mail (catalogues, fliers, etc. that come in) and updating the bulletin board in the main hallway. Just an extra set of hands to keep things running smoothly! As your schedule permits.

OPERATION HOPE MEALS - This local organization is committed to finding innovative solutions to homelessness. Once a month, the Sherman community has agreed to provide a dinner (main dish, vegetable/salad, and fruit/dessert) for 45 people who use the community kitchen. Meals are prepared in your own kitchen and delivered ready to serve at 4:30. This is a great way for families, scout troops, and other school groups to help our local individuals and families in need.

ORGANIC SCHOOL GARDEN - Sherman school has an Organic School Garden used by students, teachers and volunteers for many educational opportunities. The garden is used as a tool to teach students about healthy foods, agriculture, science, math, social studies, and community. We need volunteers for set-up, gardening, and fundraising. We need a great grant writer. You don't have to have a green thumb to help. The time commitment varies depending on how you would like to help.

SCHOOL STORE - Volunteers are needed to assist in the operation of the School Store, which is typically open at lunchtime, every other Wednesday. This is a LOT of fun, and gives our children an opportunity to replenish their school supplies.

SHAPE - (Sherman Health & Physical Excellence) Given the rise in childhood obesity and related health problems among America's children (Type 2 Diabetes, hypertension, and orthopedic issues); the SHAPE committee was formed to make Sherman healthier. We need volunteers to create programs and raise awareness among parents and students, and we could also include legal advocacy on school-related health issues.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE - The Sunshine Committee purpose is to thank and show appreciation to the teachers and other staff members by organizing and baking for special events such as Custodial Day, Nurse's Day, Education Support Professionals Day, Holiday Lunch, Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and other staff related "special days". Volunteers are needed to help with baking. These baked goods are to compliment our giving of thank you cards, gift cards, or flowers, in addition to the luncheons for the Sherman staff.

CLASSROOM BASED ACTIVITIES

ART IN THE CLASSROOM - Art in the Classroom is an art appreciation program for grades K-5. Volunteers present six lessons throughout the school year, each focusing on a piece of art on display at the Met in New York. The time commitment is an hour per session plus preparation time. No art history background is necessary. This can be done solo or as a team.

C.A.N.E. (CT Audubon Nature Explorers) - Provide hands-on learning and fun in your child's K-2 science curriculum. C.A.N.E is sponsored by CT Audubon Society. Each class needs 2-3 volunteers who are thoroughly trained by the Audubon staff in topics such as "Animals Preparing for Winter" and "Seashore Life". Three sessions throughout the school year are presented, one of which is a field trip. No science or teaching experience necessary; just the love of the outdoors and children.

MILL RIVER GUIDES - Participate in your child's grades 3-5 science curriculum by guiding small group tours at Perry's Mill. The Mill River Wetland Committee provides a thorough training (1 indoor/1 outdoor class) about Fairfield's river basin system. Your total time commitment, including training, is 8-10 hours. This is done seasonally throughout the school year. No previous science or teaching experience is necessary.

ONE TIME EVENTS*

***THE BEACH BASH (Parent/Teacher Social)** - Fun filled evening for parents and teachers in May. Volunteers needed to help plan the event, sell tickets and set/clean-up.

***BINGO** - Helpers needed for this fun winter event to sell bingo cards, call numbers, run prizes, sell snacks and set/clean up.

***BOOK FAIR** - Volunteers are needed to set up merchandise, assist children with their selections, act as salespersons the days of the fair, and pack up merchandise the final day.

***DADS' NIGHT OUT WITH KIDS** - Parents needed to sell snacks, run games and set/clean up.

***DIVERSITY DAY** - Hands-on workshop held for fourth graders. Students get to experience the everyday challenges of living with blindness, dyslexia, physical limitations, etc. It's a heart-warming way to build bridges and understanding for students and parents alike. Volunteers needed to help with PR, programming and staffing the stations.

***HALLOWEEN DANCE** - This family event is generally on a Friday evening in the APR. We need parents to chaperone, decorate, solicit door prizes, and sell refreshments, set/clean up.

***HOLIDAY FAIR** - Many volunteers are needed for this great day! In preparation for this event, we need shoppers to purchase items to sell and crafty people to make items to sell. The day of the fair, we need help to staff the various booths, help the younger children shop or assist with set up/clean up.

***MOMS' NIGHT OUT** - Mom's Night Out is a festive social event held at a local venue in May. Committee members are needed to organize the entertainment, refreshments, raffles and vendors.

***MOVIE NIGHT** - Volunteers are needed to sell tickets and snacks, as well as set/clean up.

***PICTURE DAY** - Volunteers are needed in the Fall to help prep the students, fill out forms, and maintain order the day of the shoot, preferably a two-hour or three-hour shift. After proofs are received, orders need to be verified.

***REFLECTIONS** - Reflections is a National PTA Program to encourage students to pursue artistic expression. Volunteers help to organize an "Arts Week" to kick off the Reflections contest. Parents and family members share their talents during that week through music and visual arts displayed during lunch. Student contest entries are then encouraged and collected over the following weeks. Winning entries are chosen and forwarded to the State and National level.

***SPRING FAIR** - The Spring Fair will be held on a Saturday. Help is needed in many areas such as baking, working booths and children's games, raffles and refreshments, etc. This is a great opportunity for working parents to have some fun and meet friends.

***VISION TESTING (fall)** - Volunteers are needed to help the nurse test the children's eyes in the fall.

***WALKATHON** - The goal of the Walkathon is for children to make a visible contribution to their school, build a sense of community, promote school spirit and encourage healthy exercise. The hope is that this will be a huge fundraiser to fund many of our events throughout the year. Volunteers needed to solicit sponsorships, market the event, manage donations and pledges, map and staff the course, and provide hospitality the day of the event.