



Roxbury Elementary School

751 West Hill Road, Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: (203) 977-4287 Fax: (203) 977-4615
www.Roxburyschool.org

Dr. Mark Bonasera, Principal
Mr. Kenneth Childs, Assistant Principal
Ms. Shanna Esposito, Administrative Intern

February 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Three years ago, Filling in the Blanks co-founders Tina Kramer and Shawnee Knight visited Roxbury and learned that many of our students were arriving at school on Mondays complaining of having very little to eat over the weekend. The problem was particularly evident when the rent came due or when a family's monthly benefits ran out. When students are malnourished, they can only think about how hungry they are and quite simply, they cannot learn. Hearing this, Ms. Kramer and Ms. Knight thought they could help – and they did, in a most impressive manner.

Although our school community includes some wealthy families who reside in the immediate area, more than 60% of our students qualify for free/reduced price breakfast and lunch. Each week, Filling in the Blanks delivers 150 weekend food bags for those students to take home. The bags contain two breakfasts, two lunches, some snacks, and fresh fruit. Students love the program because the food is healthful and appeals to their tastes. They look forward to the soup, cereal, milk, macaroni and cheese, fruit cups, popcorn, and chewy bars. Parents appreciate that they spend less on groceries each week. Parents also have peace of mind, knowing their children can reach into the bag and make their own meal if they're at work and a babysitter is in charge.

Filling in the Blanks enables us to address the very serious issue of weekend hunger, and we would not be able to do so without this wonderful organization. Student complaints about not eating over the weekend have diminished, which is a great relief to all of us. Roxbury is indeed fortunate that when our families needed this resource, Ms. Kramer and Ms. Knight were there, and they continue to come through week after week.

Sincerely,

Mark Bonasera, Ed.D.
Principal