



The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

Home of the Panther Cubs!

Volume 13, Issue 2

October 2006

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

I am happy to report that we have gotten off to a wonderful start to the school year! Our students and teachers have settled into the routines of the school year and are excited about our new Everyday Math curriculum.

On Wednesday, September 27, 2006 parents of elementary students throughout the district gathered at SRS for an overview of Everyday Mathematics and later divided into break-out groups to focus on grade specific information about what is going on in Everyday Mathematics in September in their child's classroom. The next parent workshop on Everyday Mathematics will be held at NPE on Wednesday, October 25 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

If you have questions or concerns about this program, you can e-mail them to:
everydaymathematics@wssd.org.

If you'd like to learn more about the research, scope and sequence and curriculum features of this program, you should go to the following website:

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/parents/index.shtml>.

For those of you who are new to SRS, I'd like to tell you about our character education initiative. We define our core principles early in the year with the distribution of a school pact which defines our core values, expected behaviors, and appropriate consequences. A particular focus is placed on the prevention of bullying behavior, which has resulted in the development of a school-wide anti-bullying pledge and club, the development of a common vocabulary related to bullying, empowering our students to speak up when they are the victim or witness of bullying, and increased social skill training.



SRS has four cornerstones of pro-social behavior: Manners, Kindness, Courage and Self-Control. Each of our four cornerstones is focused on as a monthly theme throughout the school year. Our teachers weave these themes into their daily instructional programs and emphasize each cornerstone when they reinforce positive behaviors or resolve difficulties. Each theme is highlighted in a developmentally appropriate manner through songs,

skits, and literature at our primary and intermediate school meetings.

Two different curriculums are implemented to help students acquire a developmentally appropriate understanding of what our core values mean in everyday behavior. Second Step, a social skills development curriculum is taught to students in grades 1 and 2. This program is designed to reduce aggressive and impulsive behavior and increase social competence. Steps to Respect is taught to students in grades 3, 4 and 5. It is designed to decrease bullying and help students build more supportive relationships with each other. It teaches children to recognize bullying, use assertive behaviors and to report bullying to adults.

The threat of rain did not stop us from getting together for our annual Back to School Picnic on Thursday, September 28. As usual, the talent show was the highlight of the evening. Thanks to everyone who made this event such a success, especially Alisa Liu and Linda McGillin for coordinating this event and Kelly Kane and Bridget Pendleton for organizing the talent show.

The results of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) administered in the spring of 2006 were released recently. A school community has a lot to celebrate when close to ninety percent or more of the students at three grade levels are performing at the advanced and/or proficient level in Math and Reading!

| Grade | Math Assessment | | Reading Assessment | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Advanced | Proficient | Advanced | Proficient |
| 5 th | 77% | 10% | 56% | 31% |
| 4 th | 69% | 30% | 60% | 30% |
| 3 rd | 75% | 20% | 57% | 29% |

SRS was recently notified that we will receive a \$1,611 5-County Arts grant that we will use to fund our third grade African Dance program. We thank Debora Pierce-Hoffman for all her efforts in coordinating this grant for the second year in a row. We also learned that we will receive a \$1,850 Arts In Education grant that we will use to fund our Walnut Street Theater residency that will introduce our primary students to the performing arts.

Hope to see you all at the SRS Halloween parade at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2006.

Gary Davis

WSSD Superintendent Search

Representatives from the Delaware County Intermediate Unit will be meeting with interested parents and community members from 7:00-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 in the SRS auditorium to learn what qualities members of our school community would like to see in a new superintendent.

School Safety

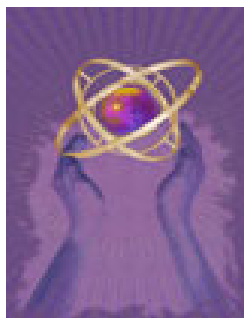
Prior the recent school shootings, representatives from WSSD administrative team were in the process of completely reviewing and updating our district and school emergency and crisis management plans. We will soon be sharing these updated emergency plans with school staff members. Representatives from this team will continue to participate in table top emergency exercises with local law enforcement agencies in order to prepare our school emergency teams to respond more effectively to school emergencies.

All SRS staff and faculty are required to wear WSSD identification and all visitors to our building must sign-in and wear a school visitor's pass. We are instituting a locked door policy. All entry doors into SRS and TKP are closed and locked after morning admission. After 9:30 a.m. all visitors must enter through the main office door and sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. Prior to 9:30 a.m. visitors enter through the main lobby doors and sign-in at the Welcome Desk.

In addition to monthly fire drills, we have regular lockdown drills so that our students, staff and visiting parents are familiar with these procedures. During our lunch recess periods, we have approximately 10 assistants that are assigned to designated areas throughout our school yard. They actively monitor and supervise our students to ensure their safety. We have a School Safety Committee made up of parent, faculty, and administrative representatives from Trinity, TKP and SRS that meet on a monthly basis to review common school safety issues and concerns.

James Allen Fox, a noted authority on school violence and a Criminal Justice Professor at Northeastern University, recently commented on the recent school shootings. He quoted statistics that put these shootings in perspective. He said that there is a 1 in 2 million chance that a child will die in a school shooting. He said that there is a far greater chance that a child will lose his/her life in a bicycle accident; four hundred children die in bicycle accidents each year. He recommended that we not turn our schools into fortresses and suggested that schools take the steps that we are currently taking.

Hands on Science is Back at SRS



The Hands on Science Outreach (HOSO) program is once again being offered to SRS students as an after school enrichment program. HOSO is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to spark children's interest in science. The program is inquiry-based to encourage students ages pre-K to sixth grade to ask questions and to explore answers using hands-on materials. HOSO is in its third year at SRS. Anatomy is the focus of the fall session. Classes run for eight weeks and are grouped according to grade levels. Class size is limited to 11 students for optimal participation and run for eight weeks.



Each class is led by adult leaders trained according to the HOSO guidelines. The number of classes SRS can offer depends on the number of instructors available to teach. Instructors do not have to have a science background or teaching experience. The only requirement is that you have a Bachelor's degree and an interest in getting children excited about science. Adult leaders are compensated for their time and the program fee is waived for their child. The instructors are required to complete training provided by the HOSO-certified trainer.



Linnette Reilly, an SRS parent, is the local HOSO-certified trainer. Anyone interested in participating in this program is encouraged to contact her at 610-876-7260 or reilly.4@verizon.net.

The next series of classes will begin in Winter 2007. The theme is Chemistry. Participants are chosen by lottery if there are more students interested than the number of classes available. Children on a waiting list from the previous session will be given first priority for the upcoming session. As mentioned above, the number of classes depends on the number of trained adult leaders – please consider becoming a HOSO instructor! The next training will be held in early January

Calling for Future Reporters



Parents, if your child is interested in interviewing a staff member of SRS for the Rising Star, please send me an email (rdgenter@aol.com), call me (484-477-3905), or send me home a note via backpack express. Notes can be sent by Bryan Boyer (Ms. Benson's class).

Thank you!

Dear SRS Community,

October 3, 2006

Well it is hard to believe that September has flown by, but the bright crisp days of fall are energizing, which is a good thing as our schedules become crowded with school activities and new routines. We hope this note finds everyone adapting well to the new order of business that the school year brings.

It was nice to see everyone at the 2006-2007 Back to School Night. The video that the teachers put together was fantastic. I think we all enjoyed getting started with a good laugh; it reminds us how important a good sense of humor is in life. Three cheers from the audience to the producers of that clip. We quickly moved through a busy H&S week, with our opening meeting being held the night before that event. We hope everyone was able to attend that wanted to; we spent time going over the workings, fundraising, and spending of the SRS H&S Association. We especially wanted to welcome ALL new members of SRS to H&S, and extend an open invitation to join in as a volunteer in any area of interest. We rely on our volunteers to operate at full capacity and it is a great way to become connected with the Faculty and the SRS community.

We are only 1/10 (everyday math at work) of the way through the school year and already two of our major fundraisers are winding down: the Coupon Book and the Sally Foster Gift Wrap sale. Please take a moment to browse the books/catalogs and order if possible, as these are our major sources of income. The monies we take in here will be used to support our Dimension Programs, Guest speakers, Anti-Bullying workshops, and Poetry. If you have any questions about the coupon books, they can be directed to Jen Govannicci at gover064@aol.com, and questions about Sally Foster can be directed to Kristen Ross at klross2@comcast.net.

We all kept our fingers crossed that the weather would hold out for our Back to School Picnic, which was rescheduled for September 28 and it did ... HOORAY! We all had a wonderful time playing, socializing, eating, and being entertained by the incredible talent we have right here at SRS. A big Thank You to Alisa Herman Liu and Linda McGillin for co-chairing this event, and also to Christine Stockman, for coordinating the Bake Sale. Mrs. Kane's and Mrs. Welsh's enthusiasm was infectious during the Talent Show which made it a huge success. Take a moment to view some amateur photography of the event on the new www.srskids.org website. Any professional photographers out there in our SRS community are welcome to join in and help us to make our website visually entertaining and informative.

As always, we welcome you to join us at our next SRS H&S meeting to be held on Thursday, Oct 12, 2006 at 7PM. We will begin with a representative from the DCIU discussing and gathering information about what qualities we perceive as important in a superintendent candidate. We will also discuss new fundraising opportunities, alternative art programs, committee reports, old and new business and just added School Safety and Security.

Sincerely,
SRS H&S Co-chairs
Kate Dickey, dickeys@comcast.net
Beth Resweber, sresweber@pol.net

SRS Fall Festival

(Fun for the whole family!)

Friday, October 20th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Festival Highlights

Ice Cream Social

Patty Donato: 610-338-0241 gpcadonato@comcast.net

Create your own Sundae...drizzle chocolate syrup... sprinkle, sprinkles...make something yummy for your tummy!

Parents, we need lots of SCOOPERS!

Book Swap

Heidi Carp: 610-338-0870 scarp302@aol.com

Ruth Bock: 610-543-3819 ruthhb@hotmail.com

Bring in some books you have finished, and swap them for that same number of books that will spark your interest.

Bake Sale

Veronica Olszewski: 610-627-0708 volszewski@hotmail.com

Culinary Treats for all ages. Pick some up for the weekend. (Plenty of baking opportunities available)

4th Grade Pumpkin Sale

Sonya Pappas: 610-328-3258 pappas.pr@verizon.net

Pumpkins of all shapes and sizes! Maybe you'll guess the weight of the giant pumpkin and get to take it home.

Build Your Own Scarecrow

Margaret Hoch: 610-541-0266 margarethoch@verizon.net

Sheri Whelpley: 610-499-3719 sbwjpw@comcast.net

Have fun stuffing your old clothes to create your own personalized scarecrow!

Please contact Festival Co-Chairs Margaret Hoch & Sheri Whelpley with any questions or concerns

HELP WANTED (again...still...it's what makes SRS go round)

Please check off the activity with which you would like to help, and return this portion to your child's teacher. Feel free to contact the coordinators directly. Thanks!

Ice Cream Social

Bake Sale

Build Your Own Scarecrow

4th Grade Pumpkin Sale

Book Swap

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____



The Rising Star

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Submit materials to:

Robin Boyer

Rdgenter@aol.com

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

100 College Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081
610-544-5700

Attendance Line:

610-544-5702

Check out our Website!

<http://wssd.org/>

(click on SRS)

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*A proud member of Wallingford-
Swarthmore
School District*



Dates to Remember

****SRS 2006/07 DIRECTORIES-SCHOOL HANDBOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE. ORDER YOUR COPY(COPIES) BEFORE 10/13. DON'T FORGET THE EXTRA COPY FOR THE OFFICE AND CAR!!**

***10/16:** Wrapping Paper Fundraising Ends

***10/12:** Home & School Meeting - 7:30

***10/31:** Halloween Parade

***11/15:** Home & School Meeting - 7:30

***11/23-24:** No School - Thanksgiving Break



***Let's make tasty
caramel apples!***

Makes 6

You will need the following items for this project:

- 6 small Granny Smith or other firm apples (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup dark corn syrup
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Steps:

- Insert a 6-inch wooden dowel into the center of each apple. Set the apples onto an 11 x 17 baking sheet lined with a nonstick baking mat. Set aside. Fill a medium bowl with ice and water, and set aside.
- Place the sugar, corn syrup, heavy cream, and butter in a small saucepan, and bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring to combine. Clip on a candy thermometer, and boil the mixture until the temperature reaches about 260 degrees; it should take about 20 minutes. Immediately place the saucepan into the ice water to stop the cooking. Working quickly, dip the apples one at a time into the caramel, and place them onto the lined baking sheet. Transfer to a serving platter as soon as set, and serve immediately.
- If the caramel becomes too stiff to coat the apples, rewarm it slightly over medium heat until it softens.
- Customize your **caramel apples** by adding jimmies or candy to the outside for an extra delicious treat.