



The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

Home of the Panther Cubs!

Volume 13, Issue 3

November 2006

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

According to the National Association of Elementary Principals, a lack of good manners is a growing problem in classrooms and playgrounds. It addressed the widespread problem of disrespect in a "Good Manners" report to parents. Tips for adults interested in improving children's social behavior included the following:

- Stress to children the importance of treating others the same way they like to be treated.
- Help children understand the harm caused by thoughtless, unkind words and actions.
- Role-play difficult situations for children in order to demonstrate appropriate responses.
- Establish a politeness policy for basic manners.
- Teach children the importance of thinking of others; write thank-you notes.

At SRS, we address this issue through our manners cornerstone. Starting in September, we emphasize the importance of treating all members of our school community with respect. Classroom teachers emphasize this focus in their daily classroom interactions. We encourage our students to use good manners on a regular basis. We have a Good Manners bulletin board in the SRS lobby and a Good Manners Mailbox in which students and staff members can recognize the good manners exhibited by other students and staff members.

When our students want to compliment someone for using good manners, they complete the following form and place it in the Good Manners Mailbox:

Dear _____,

(first name)

(last name)

I really liked it when you used your **manners**. It made me very happy when you

Your friend,

(first name)

(last name)

♥Here are some of the compliments that students and staff have received:

“helped me when I was on the ground playing soccer at school.”

“let me use your clarinet book at our instrumental lesson.”

“started giving me the ball when we played football.”

“shared your snack and lunch with me.”

“offered to sit out a turn so Jack could join our math game group.”

“shared your markers with me.”

“offered me your lunch ticket to buy lunch.”

“helped me put on my costume.”

“helped me when someone hurt my feelings.”

On October 5th our primary students met for a primary assembly program focused on our manners cornerstone. Mrs. Gidaro’s and Mrs. Kane’s classes performed exciting presentations emphasizing the importance of manners. Similarly, on October 19th our intermediate students had an assembly program dealing with the same cornerstone. Ms. Hacik’s and Mrs. Strohmets’s classes performed humorous skits that highlighted the importance of being a mannerly member of our school community.

These assembly programs are an important part of our social awareness program. Over the past six years we have used our primary and intermediate assembly programs to promote our four cornerstones: manners, kindness, courage and self-control. These are pro-social skills that build a sense of community, set expectations, and promote positive citizenship and pride.

SRS once again will be implementing our Be A Buddy mentoring program for students that need a little extra “TLC.” The emphasis of this program is on making sure that those students who need extra encouragement and support receive it. Students are recommended for this program by their teachers. SRS staff members volunteer to be mentors. Mentor “visits” are scheduled at a time mutually convenient for the mentor, teacher and student, perhaps during the student’s scheduled lunch recess period. Activities include playing games, reading together, discussing school work or merely enjoying a pleasant conversation.

Gary Davis

Dear SRS Community,



Well, here we are in the midst of Autumn! By the time you receive this letter we will have already finished our Halloween parade and parties, as well as set our clocks back one hour, shortening even more, our already short days. I hope everyone has time to enjoy the fabulous fall colors that decorate the landscape which surround SRS this time of year...it is truly a beautiful site!

The Fall Festival has just finished and it was great fun with scarecrow making, gourd sale, bake sale, ice cream sundaes and the book swap. We had suggestions to include a pizza sale at the festival next year, which would make a very convenient dinner for all those who attend. Many thanks to Margaret Hoch and Sheri Whelpley for co-coordinating the event, and to Sonya Pappas for running the gourd sale, Patti Donato for organizing the ice cream social, Ruth Bock and Heidi Carp for overseeing the book swap, and Veronica Olszewski who was in charge of the bake sale. Also, thank you to the parents who volunteered to help make the Fall Fair the success it was! The kids had a great time...as did the parents.

The school directories are out. If you have not received your copy please investigate...they are a vibrant orange color, with wonderful children's art work throughout...and a wealth of information contained within. We can only imagine the amount of time and energy that goes into this project. Many, many thanks to Lisa Starr and Doug Hasbrouck for their continued work on this project, and to Lisa Hough who is new to the directory project this year.

The web site continues to provide our community with an additional resource to keep track of important school related information. Continue to access its sites as well as view the posted photos from previous activities. Tony Liu and Doug Hasbrouck continue to keep the site current with information and relevant documents for downloading. Thanks again to the both of you!

As November approaches, we would like to remind you of a few important dates. There will be no school on November 7th due to a teacher in-service day. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for November 16-22. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 on these conference days, no lunch will be served.

Please keep your eyes open for registration for the Foreign Language Program being coordinated by our own Michael Haines. In addition, Artworks will also be offering a new session during Nov/Dec for interested students.

It feels like time starts flying by this time of year, but each season brings with it new beginnings and happenings here at SRS. Please join us at our next Home and School meeting on November 15, at 7:30 PM in the Library where we will continue to plan events for the upcoming months. It is a great way to meet new people in the school community and have a voice in what we will offer as extra curricular and enrichment activities in the months ahead.

Sincerely,
SRS H&S Co-chairs
Kate Dickey, dickeysw@aol.com
Beth Resweber, sresweber@pol.net

Introducing www.srskids.org

Need to schedule a meeting at work but want to make sure you don't miss the Talent Show your child mentioned last night at dinner? Well, fire up your browser and check the date at the new Home and School Association website at <http://www.srskids.org>.

At www.srskids.org, in addition to a handy calendar of SRS and Home and School events, you will find information such as:

- School holidays, important SRS phone numbers and school closings,
- SRS policies in the Parent-Student Handbook,
- Home and School Association, its officers, the meeting schedule and minutes,
- Volunteering opportunities and sign-up form,
- Volunteering opportunities and sign-up form (hint: H and S can always use more help!),
- The Rising Star newsletter,
- Links to the teachers' websites
- Lunch menus

While much of this information is also available elsewhere, we've tried to collect in one place for easy access from work or home.

The site is only a couple of months old, so it is still very much a work in progress. We plan to add more information about enrichment programs sponsored by Home and School as well as the new math curriculum Everyday Mathematics. We will also try to put some of the "backpack" forms on the site. Of course, we will be covering SRS and Home and School events and accomplishments so that you can share the news and photos with your family, relatives and friends.

We hope you have had a chance to visit the site. If you haven't, we hope you will try it out soon. A visitor's guide to the website can be found at http://www.srskids.org/?page_id=60. Just be sure to check back frequently for new postings. You can add a bookmark to your Favorites by clicking on "**Add to Favorites**" ("**Bookmark This Page**" in Firefox) in the upper-right hand corner of the home page.



Better yet, consider subscribing to new postings through e-mail from [srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org) or RSS (Real Simple Syndication) by clicking on the appropriate link under the **Subscribe** section of the left-hand sidebar. You will then be notified automatically when something new is posted to site. (You can always unsubscribe by clicking on the same link.)

We hope you will find the site useful. We are always looking for ways to improve the web site, so if you have any suggestions for content, features or better usability, please contact us by sending an e-mail to webmaster@srskids.org.

SRS Staff Spotlight*Featuring Carrie Saunders*

Interview by Grace Dickey

How long have you been a teacher?

6 years.

What do you like best about being a teacher?

I love working with children. They are so inspiring and fun to teach. I also am following a family "tradition" being a teacher, as both of my grandparents, my parents and my sister are all teachers.

**Tell a funny story from your life.**

One time when I was at Starbucks getting a coffee, I went to grab a sleeve (it is what you put around the cup to keep your hand from getting too hot while holding it) for my cup and all of them fell all over the floor.

What is your favorite

food?	Bread	vacation spot?	the Outer Banks in North Carolina
number?	13	holiday?	Thanksgiving
color?	Yellow	sport?	Lacrosse

Why is Thanksgiving your favorite holiday?

I love family time. Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for all that we are so fortunate to have while spending time with the most important people in our lives.

Did you play lacrosse in high school and college?

I have been playing lacrosse since fifth grade, but not as much now! My position was Attack Wing. I played on a club team in college after playing all through middle school and high school.

What do you like to do in your free-time?

I like to read, watch movies, listen to music and spend time with my family and friends.

Do you have any pets?

No.

I understand that you went to teach in China last summer. How did that opportunity come about and tell about your experience?

Teaching in China last summer came about at the end of the school year when there was an opportunity presented to all district teachers. It was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life thus far.

Were you in an English speaking school?

I taught English to high school students, ages 14-16.

Where in China?

I worked in Danyang, China, which was about 2 hours from Shanghai.

Was it hot there too?

Yes! It was very hot and humid, but we adjusted!

Were you in the city or the country?

We were in a smaller city, relative to other larger Chinese cities.

Did you speak any Chinese?

I learned about 20 Chinese words, but I wish I had a chance to learn so much more!

Do you play any instruments?

I play the piano and the saxophone.



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Submit materials to:

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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

**** There are still plenty of volunteer opportunities available. Log on to www.srs.org and choose from the volunteer list!**

***11/7:** In Service Day - NO SCHOOL

***11/9:** Talent Show - 1:45 pm

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

***11/16-22:** Parent/Teacher Conferences -
12:30 Dismissal

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

***12/25-29:** Winter Break

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 a note via backpack express. Notes can be sent by Bryan Boyer (Ms. Benson's class).

