



# The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

*Home of the Panther Cubs!*

Volume 13, Issue 5

January 2007

## *From the Principal's Desk*

January 2007

Dear SRS Families:

The SRS Home and School Association provides support and enrichment materials for our curriculum through our Dimensions programs in math, science, social studies and art. These programs have a very positive influence on our school and students.

Listed below is a summary of what each of our Dimensions programs does at SRS:

**Dimensions in Math** sponsors Math Career Day and a series of “24” Tournaments for intermediate grade classes.

**Dimensions in Science** sponsors supplemental science units such as embryology, rocketry and eco-lab. They also sponsor the Visiting Scientist Program that brings parent scientists into our classrooms to promote discovery and scientific understanding.

**Dimensions in Social Studies** sponsors an extensive thematic unit on a different Asian country each year for our primary students. This year the focus will be on China. They also sponsor “One Book, One School”, mock elections and an SRS Blue Rocks game in April.

**Dimensions in Art** supports the 5th grade art project that involves an artist-in-residence. Through this project our fifth graders create a large art project that represents their legacy to the SRS community. They also sponsor the primary grade artist project and are involved with cataloging the permanent art collection.

### **Look what's happening at SRS in January:**

- The SRS Orchestra, Band and Chorus will perform at our annual Winter Concert on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- SRS celebrates the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. at a special school-wide assembly on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- SRS will have a student talent show at our all-school meeting on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- SRS will hold its first annual Bully Awareness Week January 22<sup>nd</sup>-January 26<sup>th</sup>.

We will have a school-wide kickoff assembly on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. A performance of the play “The Boy Who Cried Bully” by the Walnut Street Touring Company on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> The Spice Route Ensemble will perform at a special assembly program.

**SRS Enrollment Projections for 2007-2008.** We are projecting the following enrollment figures at SRS for the 2007-2008 school year:

<b>Grade.</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b># of Classrooms</b>
First	60	3
Second	60	3
Multiage	60	3
Third	92	4
Fourth	88	4
Fifth	<u>109</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals	<u>469</u>	<u>22</u>

Note: According to the workload agreement between the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District and the Wallingford-Swarthmore Education Association, class sizes of 18-23 are recommended for primary (grades one and two) and 20-27 are recommended for intermediate (grades three, four and five).

**Testing.** Parents should be aware of the following tests that will be given:

Test: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

Target Group: 5th grade

Test Period: February 12-23

Test Focus: Writing

Test: Otis-Lennon School Abilities

Target Group: 2nd grade

Test Period: March 6-7

Test Focus: Measures abstract reasoning ability and the ability to cope with school learning tasks.

Test: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

Target Group: 3rd -5th grade

Test Period: March 12-23

Test Focus: Reading and Math

**How You Can Make This a Successful Experience for Your Child.**

- Talk to your child about the importance of doing his or her best work when taking this test.
- Make sure your child has gotten plenty of rest and has had a good breakfast prior to coming to school on test days.
- It is very important that your child has good attendance and punctuality throughout the testing period.

Here's wishing you and yours all the best in 2007!

Gary Davis

Principal

Dear SRS Community,

Please mark you calendars that we will have the Winter Concert on January 11, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the auditorium, a very entertaining night of music provided by the SRS Band, Orchestra and Chorus. We will also have a presentation by Steve Goldfield at the January 10, 2007 SRS H&S meeting, which will be held at 7:30 PM in the SRS library. Steve is the head of the finance committee for the Board of School Directors for WSSD and is also an SRS parent. He will discuss the issues of tax restructuring (property/income) that are currently being presented to the board, and how this could affect the SRS budget. Time for questions will follow.

SRS H&S has enjoyed some very successful fund raisers during the fall months: Sally Foster Gift Wrap, Coupon Books and Directory Sales. We will now see these funds put to work for the students and faculty at SRS. Now that the break is over, we will begin our first Bully Awareness Week. Training in bully awareness/prevention, has been ongoing throughout the school year by the Olweus Bully Prevention training program and a core group of faculty, administrators and parents. The students will now enjoy a week of instruction on recognizing what bullying is in its many forms, and how to be proactive in eliminating bullying behaviors. SRS H&S has provided the necessary funding for this nationally recognized program to come to SRS and help us to plant solid roots in bullying prevention. The week of January 22-26 is designated "Bully Awareness Week" at SRS and will culminate with a performance of "The Boy Who Cried Bully". Dr. Davis and the faculty are very excited about this week. Feedback about this program will be given at the February H&S meeting.

The second quarter report cards will be issued on January 26<sup>th</sup>, followed quickly by the very successful social event "Bingo Night" on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-9:00 PM. Bingo night is divided into two sessions, an early and a late, in order to accommodate the big crowd and excitement . . . the kids really do love this event. Pizza and drinks are available for purchase. As always, ALL are welcome. Bring the friends and family out on a cold winter night for some pizza, fun and socializing. More info to follow on this event via the website, SRSkids.org and backpack mail. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Please note there will be NO SCHOOL on January 15, 2007 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and also NO SCHOOL on February 16<sup>th</sup> (In-Service) & 19<sup>th</sup> (Presidents' Day).

We hope you all had a safe, happy and healthy holiday, and we look forward to a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

SRS H&S Co-chairs

Kate Dickey, [dickeysw@aol.net](mailto:dickeysw@aol.net)

Beth Resweber, [sresweber@pol.net](mailto:sresweber@pol.net)



COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER  
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

Jean L. Fleschute  
Executive Director

November 21, 2006

Swarthmore-Rutledge School  
Home and School Association  
100 College Avenue  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Dear SRS Home and School Association:

Community Learning Center (CLC) would like to thank Swarthmore-Rutledge School (SRS) and the Home and School Association for its generous donation of three boxes of books left over from the book swap. CLC is a community-based, adult literacy program serving North Philadelphia neighborhoods for nearly 20 years. CLC's mission is to help adults develop literacy skills so that they can enrich their own and their families' lives, increase economic independence, and effect positive change their communities.

These books will not only assist us in building the home libraries of our adult students and their children, but also provide a chance for our students and their families to spend time reading together. Research shows that children who read with their families are more likely to succeed in school.

For tax purposes, please retain this letter to substantiate your charitable contribution and to verify that no goods or services were exchanged in consideration, in whole or in part, for this gift.

Again, many thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Jean L. Fleschute  
Executive Director

A copy of the official registration and financial information of Community Learning Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**SRS Staff Spotlight**  
*Featuring Pat Cronin*

**Interview by Billy Gaynor**

**1. What town and state did you live in when you were a kid?**

I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas.

**2. What subject did you like best when you went to school?**

Math has always been my favorite subject.

**3. Where did you go to college?**

I graduated from Swarthmore College in 1983.

**4. What kind of sports do you like and what team sports have you played?**

I enjoy watching football, basketball and volleyball. I have played all three.

**5. What is your favorite:**

-Holiday: Christmas  
-Ice cream: Anything chocolate  
-Food: Wings  
-Vacation place: Jersey Shore  
-Things to do at home: Cook  
-Month of the year: July  
-Animal: Rabbit

**6. Are you married and how many kids do you have?**

I have been married to my wife, Mary, for 21 years. We have 2 wonderful children: Jon, 14 and Cate, 13.

**7. Do you have any pets and, if so, what are their names?**

I don't have any pets (I used to have a rabbit).

**8. Do you speak any foreign languages?**

I speak Spanish fairly well.

**9. Do you play any instruments?**

I used to play the guitar a little.

**10. Have you ever written a book?**

I have never written a book, but I love reading books.

**11. How hard is it to be a teacher?**

Teaching is a very challenging job, but it is incredibly rewarding. I'm as eager to teach now as I was 23 years ago, when I started.

**12. What do you enjoy about teaching?**

I really enjoy working with the children. Their enthusiasm inspires me. There's never a dull moment!

**13. What do you like about SRS?**

I love working with everyone at SRS, children and adults. It's great to be part of such a welcoming and friendly school community.



## *NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE*

### COLD WEATHER NEWS

With the cold weather season upon us, we wanted to remind parents to please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold when coming to school. Coats, hats and gloves are an important measure to ensure they stay warm and dry. Students not dressed properly will not be permitted to go outside during recess.

**WSSD policy states that indoor recess will be held if wind chill temperatures are below 20 degrees, if it is raining, muddy or excessively wet.**

Please contact the Health Office at 610-892-3470 ext. 4541 with any questions or concerns.



### The Rising Star

*Published monthly*

**Deadlines: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

*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)

*A*

*A proud member of Wallingford-  
Swarthmore  
School District*



### Dates to Remember

\*\* SRS will continue to collect new or almost new books during the month January for donation to two programs. The books will be collected in the classrooms and in boxes by the Welcome Desk in the center hall or in the office. Go to [www.SRSKids.org](http://www.SRSKids.org) for more information.

- \*1/10: SRS H&S Mtg - 7:30PM
- \*1/15: No School - Dr. MLKing Day
- \*1/18: Talent Show - 1:45PM
- \*1/22-26: "Bully Awareness Week"
- \*1/25: "The Boy Who Cried Bully" - 1:45PM
- \*1/26: 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Report Cards Issued
- \*2/2: Bingo Night - 5:30-9PM
- \*2/16: No School - In-Service Day
- \*2/19: No School - Presidents' Day

## Rising Star Needs You!

Interviews of a staff member of SRS are needed for the Rising Star for February through May. Students can do the interviews alone or with a friend. Please send me an email ([rdgenter@aol.com](mailto: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).

