



# The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

*Home of the Panther Cubs!*

Volume 14, Issue 1

September 2007

September 2007

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! We are all very excited that a new school year is upon us, and we are looking forward to the challenge of making it a wonderful experience for your children. Those of you who are new to SRS are about to experience the kindness, warmth and educational excellence for which SRS is known. We are fortunate to have very active parent involvement at SRS---volunteers who spend countless hours helping to make our school a better place for students and teachers.

**Staff Update.** The SRS learning community is a place where the entire staff is dedicated to helping students acquire the social and academic skills necessary to become life-long learners and contributing members of our world. We are blessed to have an incredible, creative staff that works daily to do what's best for kids.

Some familiar faces will not be with us due to celebratory life events and personal journeys: Jill Brook and Kelly Kane will be with us for a short while in September then they will be taking maternity leaves. Kelly will be returning in late January and Jill will be back next September.

In our staff search, we were fortunate to have recruited talented new teachers who will make positive contributions to our school community. Please join us in welcoming them to the SRS learning community. Colleen Fender will be taking over for Kelly and Eric McElroy will be filling in for Jill. In addition, Liz Corson and Jennifer McGaffin will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Marc de Jong will be a special education inclusion teacher.

**On the Web.** You will gain a sense of who we are as a staff, our commitment to our educational community and learn why SRS is a great place to learn and grow by checking out the following two websites:

Http: [www.wssd.org](http://www.wssd.org)

Http: [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org)

**Important Reminders.** At the beginning of each year I like to remind us all of the little, yet very significant, things we need to do in order to make SRS a safe place for everyone.

1. **Sign-in at the Office:** While volunteering and/or visiting SRS during school hours you must first sign in at the office and wear a name tag.

2. **Arrival:** School hours are from 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Students are considered late if they arrive after 8:45 A.M. We believe that being on time is a lifelong skill. We appreciate your efforts to get your child to school on time.
3. **Before School Supervision:** In order to keep our students safe, they must not arrive before 8:20 A.M. Support staff are not on duty prior to that time.
4. **Early Dismissal:** Parents must sign their child out in the office whenever they are picking them up for an appointment. We will call the child down to the office by phone. This provides us with a safety check on the whereabouts of our students and minimizes disruption to classroom instruction.
5. **Absent/Late Arrival:** When your child is absent and not attending school, or has an appointment and will be arriving late, please call 610-544-5702. This enables us to keep better tabs on who is on/off campus for their safety.
6. **Transportation Change:** When your child is riding a different bus or has a change in their normal dismissal routine, please send a note with them to school that day. Also, please include last names on the note.
7. **Drop-off/Pick-up:** Please help us keep our students safe. Follow the requests of our supervising staff. Please keep your speed to a minimum.

**PLEASE DO:**

- Drive slowly and always yield to people in the crosswalks.
- Use College Ave. for drop-off/pick-up purposes.
- Please give any notes, lunch money, etc. to students prior to arrival.
- Let the children in and out of your cars on the RIGHT side to assure they are safe from passing cars.
- Unload students by 8:40 A.M. to make sure they are on time for school.
- Carpool whenever possible.

**PLEASE DO NOT:**

- Drop-off/pick-up in the faculty parking lot.
- Wait in the fire lane or handicapped parking areas.
- Stop in the middle of the road.

**Upcoming Events**

9/13	No School ~ Rosh Hashanah	9/21	Picture Day, Grades 1,2
9/19	HSA Meeting in Library - 7:30 p.m.	9/25	Back to School School Picnic - 5:15-7:00 p.m. (Rain Date)
9/20	Picture Day, Grades 3,4,5	9/27	Back to School Night - 7:00-8:30 p.m.
9/20	Back to School School Picnic - 5:15-7:00 p.m.		

Our **Parent-Student Handbook** will again be included in the Swarthmore-Rutledge School Directory. Please review the information in this handbook. If we are on the same page, we'll have a wonderful year at SRS!

Dr. Gary Davis  
Principal

Dear SRS Community,

Welcome back! We are looking forward to an exciting 2007-2008 school year, with a calendar full of existing Home & School programs and some new ones, too.

The mission of Home & School is to enrich the educational experience for our children at SRS through special events and supplemental programs. Our many "Dimensions" programs support that mission. For example, Dimensions in Science is responsible for the popular visiting scientists program - have you seen the posters outside the SRS office? You can also see the many legacy art projects around the school including last year's incredible Tree of Liberty mosaic mural in the courtyard. Other Dimensions programs include Social Studies, Math, Technology and Poetry supporting activities such as mock elections and math night.

Last year's budget constraints at the district level unfortunately eliminated the foreign language program at SRS. To fill that void, we have dedicated funds in the Home & School budget to initiate the Dimensions in Foreign Language program with the goal of providing accessible after-school instruction. Since we are just starting this program we are still looking for someone to coordinate the effort, under the guidance of a faculty representative, and encourage you to contact us if you are interested in helping out.

To support these wonderful programs we have several fundraisers throughout the year. We start out the fall with two of our biggest - the Sally Foster gift wrap and SRS Directory sales. This year we have added a "Mom's Night Out" on November 30 which is a fun shopping night with many local vendors. Keep your eye out for new school spirit items which we hope to debut at the Back to School picnic and the Kids' art notecards which will be available for the holidays this year. The spring semester brings our successful annual Book Fair. And year-round we participate in corporate fundraising with Box Tops and Escript. Look for more information about these sometime in September.

We are truly looking forward to being back at school and seeing everyone at the Back to School Picnic on Thursday, September 20. Throughout the year Home & School hosts several events to build and strengthen our school community such as the Fall Festival, Bingo Night and Family Dinner Dance. Last year's J'Makin' Me Dance was attended by an estimated 900 people; we can't wait to see what's in the works for this year!

You will always find useful information on our website at [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org) and we encourage you to keep up to date with school happenings by bookmarking the website on your computer.

The Home & School community at SRS is very active with many seasoned volunteers and we are always in search of new members with fresh ideas. There are many opportunities to get involved. Come to a meeting, call us or send us an email. We welcome your feedback!

We wish you all a terrific 2007-2008 school year.

Beth DeBruyn ([beth@bethandchris.com](mailto:beth@bethandchris.com))

Linda Martin ([lindadmartin@aol.com](mailto:lindadmartin@aol.com))

Co-Presidents, SRS Home & School Association

LAST CALL!

Advertisements are still being accepted for the 2007-2008 SRS Directory. Funds raised through the advertising sales and purchase of this directory directly benefit the students. In most years the Directory is the second biggest fund-raiser for the Home & School Association. For more information and to download the ad sales form visit [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org) or contact Lisa Starr at (610) 544-5265 or [lisastarrspa@aol.com](mailto:lisastarrspa@aol.com).

### **Your Contributions at Work**

Receipts from Home & School's Teacher Initiative Fund combined with previous contributions to a teacher holiday fund were used over the summer to fund renovations to the teacher lounge. With the generous help of local architect and former SRS parent Claudia Cueto, the lounge got a face lift with new paint, furniture and workspace. The hard work of Stacy Clements and MC Petras made the project possible with several faculty members and parents picking up paint brushes and hammers. Congratulations to all on a job well done!



### 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

**\*\* PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL ENTRIES FOR THE RISING STAR ARE DUE IN BY THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH.**

- \*9/11: School Advisory Committee Mtg. (7:30pm)
- \*9/13: NO SCHOOL – Rosh Hashanah
- \*9/19: Home & School Assc. Mtg (7:30pm)
- \*9/20: School Pictures – Grades 3, 4, 5
- \*9/21: School Pictures – Grades 1 & 2
- \*9/25: Back to School Picnic (5:15pm)
- \*9/27: Back to School Night (7pm)

## Calling All Reporters!

Once again, young reporters are needed to interview a staff member or community member of SRS for this year's editions of the Rising Star. Students can do the interviews alone or with a friend. Please send me an email ([rdgenter@aol.com](mailto:rdgenter@aol.com)), call me (215-327-7866), or send me home a note via backpack express. Notes can be sent by Bryan Boyer (Ms. Benson's class). Remember the deadline for entries is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

