



The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

Home of the Panther Cubs!

Volume 14, Issue 5

January 2008

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear SRS Families:

Our first grade has been studying the oceans of the world and their locations. They will soon begin to study various types of sea life. In math, they are continuing their work on money, time, and number-sense skills. They are wrapping up their solids and liquids unit in science. In addition, they have been investigating the properties of various solids and liquids during class experiments and explorations. They are also working on writing personal narratives.

The second grade will kick off their oceans exploration on January 15th with a trip to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden. Students will be encouraged to start thinking about the ocean animals they would like to learn more about and consider for their research projects. Back on land, dovetailing with their maps and globes unit, Flat Stanleys are beginning to return from adventures in Atlantic City to Australia, and they're plotting his travels on U.S. and international maps.

During the months of January and February, the third grade will continue their studies of rocks and minerals in science. In social studies, their focus will be on African American history. There will be a strong focus on the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They will continue to work on improving their process writing skills through the implementation of the *Write Traits* program and the district writing rubric. During January, they will be learning about and practicing place value in large numbers and place value in decimals. Geometry will be the focus in February.

The fourth grade will be starting their 4H embryology studies later this month. They will learn about the life cycle of chickens and other types of birds. In February, the Great Valley Nature Center will conduct a presentation on birds of prey for the fourth grade. In math, they are learning about decimals and will be moving on to long division. They are using the *Inside Writing* series to learn more about constructing paragraphs and refining their narrative, persuasive, and descriptive writing skills. Many students are editing their

written themes, poems and stories for entry in the Delaware County "Young Author's Contest."

Our 5th grade will continue to spend time preparing for the PSSA writing assessment that will be taken in February. We will soon be introducing our fifth graders to persuasive essays. Officer Bardo and Sergeant Thomas will be returning to start the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program during the week of January 7th. In social studies, they will learn about various explorers, do research on an explorer and then create a Power Point presentation. In science, they will soon be working on the micro worlds unit; they will be using microscopes to look at living organisms.

Look what's happening at SRS in January:

- The SRS Orchestra, Band and Chorus will perform at our annual Winter Concert on Thursday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.
- SRS celebrates the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. at a special assembly program at Lang Performing Arts Center at Swarthmore College on Thursday, January 17th at 1:45 p.m.
- SRS will have a student talent show at our all-school meeting on Thursday, January 24th.

SRS Enrollment Projections. We are projecting the following enrollment figures at SRS for the 2008-2009 school year:

Grade	# of Students	# of Classrooms
First	60	3
Second	60	3
Multiage	60	3
Third	105	5
Fourth	90	4
Fifth	<u>84</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	459	22

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 in the coming months:

Test: **Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)**

Target Group: 5th grade

Test Period: February 11-22

Test Focus: Writing

Test: **Otis-Lennon School Abilities**

Target Group: 2nd grade

Test Period: March 4-5

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 31-April 11

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 2008!

Gary Davis
Principal

January 2008

Dear SRS Community,

As we welcome in the New Year, we look forward to a new slate of exciting and enriching events and activities for our school community. Our winter concert takes place on January 10th, with the band, orchestra and 5th grade chorus all performing. In February we look forward to Family Bingo Night, with the Book Fair coming in the Spring.

The Book Fair will once again fill the cafeteria with wonders during conference week, April 14 –18th. Students will come to the fair with their classes, but we encourage you to return with your child in the afternoon or when you come for your child's conference. Another fun activity for families during the book fair is Math Night. This is a great chance to play some math games with your children and then stop by the book fair to get your books for Spring Break reading.

We held our first morning Home and School meeting in December and were pleased to see new faces who weren't able to make the usual evening meetings. New ideas and voices always help stimulate our meetings and we are hopeful to have even a bigger turn out at the **January 9th meeting, at 9:30am in the faculty lounge**. In February we will resume our evening meetings for the duration of the school year. A summary of the minutes from December's meeting can be found in this edition of the Rising Star.

We would also like to take this time to thank all of the parents who have given so generously of their time and resources throughout the first part of the school year. If you haven't yet but still want to get involved with a committee or event, please contact one of us and we will help put you in touch with the appropriate person.

You will always find useful information on our website at www.srskids.org and we encourage you to keep up to date with school happenings. SRS Spirit Wear is still available with order forms downloadable on the website.

Wishing you a wonderful 2008,

Linda Martin (lindadmartin@aol.com)

Beth DeBruyn (beth@bethandchris.com)

Co-Presidents, SRS Home & School Association

Home and School December 2007 Monthly Meeting Minutes

This was the first meeting of the Home and School Association to be held during the daytime to accommodate people's schedules. January's meeting will also be a daytime meeting on January 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Teacher's Lounge – please mark your calendars and make every attempt to come!

The SAC committee has several initiatives this year, one of which is working with the college to develop a strong educational partnership. There was a suggestion to match a teacher wish list with a list of college professors who might be able to assist. The SAC is also considering how to better explain the goals and benefits of the multi-age classes.

Wellness is a hot topic at the state right now, with mandating guidelines in development. Right now, every state has different mandates for food in schools and it is difficult for larger corporations to meet the needs of all states. So, Pennsylvania has adopted a 3-year program that starts with liberal guidelines that gradually get more stringent on in-school snacks. This will bring some noticeable changes into SRS, changes that everyone needs to better understand. So, watch in future issues of The Rising Star for more information on the state wellness guidelines and their impact on SRS.

All of our big fundraisers for the year are on target to bring in budgeted amounts. The Mom's Night Out on November 30 was a great success and met its fundraising goal! Thanks to all who supported this event.

Dr. Davis made two funding requests. They will be voted on at the next meeting.

- Quiet Riot – 21st Century Leaders. Focus on the qualities in a school to foster conflict resolution: Belonging, Choice, Fun, and Respect. There was a discussion around the need for there to be a clear link established with the goals of this program and our SRS Four Cornerstones.
- The Value of Values – by Jerry Brown. Program stresses the importance of making good choices.

Dimensions in Science has several new scientists this year. Art cards will be coming out after the holiday so keep your eyes open for the forms to participate.

REMEMBER – Next Home and School meeting is at 9:30 a.m. on January 9 in the Teacher's Lounge!

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SAVE THE DATE!



Friday February 1st is Bingo Night at SRS at 5:30pm! Please mark your calendars for this always popular event. Please look in your child's backpack for further information. In addition, the Bingo Night committee would like to solicit donations of new items for the raffle. We had much success last year by accepting donations from our SRS community. If you are looking to clean out your closet after the holidays, this is your opportunity! Please, new/unused items only. Adult and child items will be accepted. If you would like to donate something, please contact Alisa Herman-Liu at ahermanliu@gmail.com.

SRS Student Council

In Student Council we have been talking about rated G movies for our Movie Night in March. Later on, we will vote on which movie we will watch. We have also been talking about different theme days like Crazy Hair Day and Crazy Sock Day. We will have a different theme day every month.

We have been talking to other classes and encouraging them to recycle. They like the idea that our school gets money when we recycle, which makes them recycle even more.

We hope to see you at movie night and hope you like what we are doing in the Student Council.

By: Jackie Whelpey and
Lucy Mester
12/21/07

Color Clash Day
- January 23rd. -
Wear your craziest colors!!!

Health Office News:



Physical and dental forms may now be downloaded and printed from the Student Information section of SRS's web page.

Physical Activity

Childhood obesity in the U.S. has become an epidemic in the last 2-3 decades. Currently, 1 child in 5 is overweight. Obese children and adolescents are at risk for type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, orthopedic problems and low self esteem. Besides healthy eating, regular physical activity has immediate and long-term health benefits. Active children are more likely to become active adults. Keeping children physically active during the cold weather season may be challenging. To make exercise fun, think of activities that your child would enjoy.

Here are some suggestions:

- ice skating or roller skating
- bike riding
- jumping rope
- basketball
- bowling
- martial arts or gymnastics class
- indoor swimming
- hiking or walking the dog
- dance class or dancing to music at home
- ping pong

Parents can set a positive example by leading an active lifestyle and making physical activity a part of their family's routine. Encouraging physical activity and limiting TV and video game playing will have beneficial effects that will last a lifetime.



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

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

- *1/8: School Advisory Committee Mtg. (7:30pm)
- *1/9: SRS H&S Mtg – Teacher’s Lounge – 9:30am
- *1/10: Winter Concert (7pm)
- *1/21: NO SCHOOL – MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
- *1/23: STUDENT COUNCIL THEME DAY: COLOR CLASH DAY
- *2/1: Family Bingo Night at SRS – 5:30pm

Calling All Reporters!

Reporters are needed to Interview a staff member or community member of SRS for the remaining editions of the Rising Star. Students can do the interviews alone or with a friend. Please send me an email (rdgenter@aol.com), call me (215-327-7866), or send me a note via backpack express. Notes can be sent by Bryan Boyer (Ms. Benson’s class). Remember the deadline for entries is the 20th of the month.

