



The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

Home of the Panther Cubs!

Volume 14, Issue 8

April 2008

APRIL 2008 FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear SRS Parents:

Recess Coaches Needed

I would like to invite our moms and dads who are available midday to come to SRS and be recess coaches. This is an unpaid position and would involve no discipline of children. Recess coaches would organize games, help referee games, and involve children in activities during outdoor recess.

If you are interested, please call the main office to sign up for days/time that you are available.

We need coaches for the following times:

11:35-12:00	1 st Grade and Multiage Classes
12:20-12:45	3 rd and 4 th Grade Classes
1:05-1:30	2 nd and 5 th Grade Classes

Student Placement Requests

The traditional policy regarding student placement will again be followed this year. Parents may discuss placement with their child's teacher. We ask that discussions focus on "suitable environments" as opposed to personalities, gender, or requests for specific teachers. The final decision will be made by the faculty and the principal. Our goal will be to create balanced and heterogeneous classrooms.

Notification of Student Assignments

Elementary parents throughout the district will be notified of their child's classroom assignment in August. Sending out notifications during the second week in August will allow us to fine tune classroom assignments.

Reminder Regarding the Use of Bicycles, Skateboards and Scooters

Students in grades 3-5 may ride bicycles, skateboards and scooters to school (Younger students may not ride bicycles, skateboards and scooters to school---even if accompanied by their parents because this is a privilege reserved for older students.). Bike racks are provided in the court yard near the SRS corner entrance. It is recommended that all bicycles be securely locked at the rack. Scooters may be housed in alcoves at the bottom of the Princeton and College Ave. stairwells. If a student rides a bike, skateboard and/or scooter to school, s/he is required to wear a helmet.

Reminder Regarding Personal Property

Students are not allowed to bring in electronic games, CD players, radios, etc. They are also not allowed to bring in trading cards. These items can cause many problems for us. They can become lost or stolen. They can lead to disputes and problems that require too much time and energy to resolve.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with these matters.

Gary Davis
Principal

Volunteer Opportunities at the Middle School

The Strath Haven Middle School Home & School Association (HSA) is actively seeking volunteers for officer and committee chair positions for the 2008/09 school year. The August school mailing will put out the call for "Helpers" – what we're seeking now are individuals willing to take the lead in organizing an event or program.

Enjoy working directly with kids? Consider helping run the middle school's awesome Talent Show. Wish to get to know our local business community better? Step up and fill the Directory Ad Sales job. Enjoy planning a teacher's luncheon? Raise your hand to fill the Hospitality Chair. Don't mind administrative details? Jump in and serve as Vice-Chair of Home and School. Just give us a call. We'll find a match for whatever talents and interests you have.

We encourage you to be an active part of the SHMS community. After all, your child only has three years in the middle school. If you want to pitch in, now is the time. HSA welcomes all parents and caretakers, moms and dads alike. Interested or just have questions? Please contact GERALYN ARANGO (610) 874-7670, JEANNINE MACKAY (610) 874-6423 or through e-mail at aagacana@verizon.net , jcmpraises@aol.com. Check out the Home and School section of the SHMS website for job descriptions. We'd love to hear from you.

MARCH 2008

Dear SRS Community,

Ahhhh.... Spring! We hope everyone enjoyed their spring break as we look forward to outside activities and some fun Home & School events to bring our community together.

At our March Home & School meeting, we had an informative technology presentation by Tony Liu about 21st century skills and participated in a discussion about what we can do to prepare our children for the future. Tony has done a tremendous job working with the district administration to assess SRS technology needs and identify potential solutions. He is also the creator and guru of www.srskids.org. Thanks Tony!

Our next Home & School meeting on **April 9 at 7:30pm in the SRS library** will feature a discussion about science curriculum and enrichment opportunities. WSSD Curriculum Director Mark Linkins will give a district overview. As many of you know the PSSA testing includes a science component for fourth graders. Additionally, our beloved Hands on Science program will come to an end this year. Please join us for more discussion on this important topic.

The Book Fair is right around the corner, coinciding with parent-teacher conferences and early dismissal April 14-18th. Guest authors Brian Meunier and Perky Edgerton will visit the students to kick off the Book Fair on Friday April 11. The fair will be open late on **April 17th from 6:30-9:00pm** to coincide with **Math and Technology Night**. Stop by the cafeteria for math games, books and to check out the children's artwork.

During the week of half days the primary grades will be studying India. Dimensions in Art is planning a related primary art project and Dimensions in Social Studies is planning a series of cultural events. If your family has relevant experiences or family traditions to share please contact Mary Gay Scanlon at scanlonmg@comcast.net. Possible activities or interests include displaying traditional clothing, contacting a dance group and/or artist, and preparing traditional foods.

The Kids' Art Note Cards were sent home in the backpacks in early March. We hope you were able to place your order but want you to know there is still time to order with the **DEADLINE EXTENDED until April 11**. Our many thanks go to Deborah Dunlap who worked with the art teachers to have each student design a custom card.

A special thank you also goes to Sharon Mester and Heidi Foggo and the many parent volunteers who made the annual Pillo Polo game a success. What an amazing performance from the Panther Drum Line!

Two upcoming events you won't want to miss...the annual trip to the Blue Rocks game on April 27 where our 5th graders will sing the National Anthem and the much anticipated Family Dinner Dance on May 2nd. This year Uncle Sam Wants You at an olde time political rally!

If you always wanted that extra school directory for your car or office, now's your chance. A small amount of directories are on sale in the school office for \$3.50 each... that's half price!

We're looking forward to seeing you at the many upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Beth DeBruyn (beth@bethandchris.com)

Linda Martin (lindadmartin@aol.com)

Co-Presidents, SRS Home & School Association



American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Wallingford-Swarthmore
May 9-10 2008
Strath Haven High School George King Field
Sponsors and Participants Needed!

Each year Relay brings together the community to take part in the fight against cancer. It's a time and place where people come to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those we've lost, and fight back against a disease that touches too many lives. Thanks in part to the donations from Relay For Life and other events, the American Cancer Society is saving lives, helping those touched by cancer, and empowering people to fight this disease all over the world.



To find out more about how you can donate to Relay, start a team, or be recognized as a survivor, visit the website at www.events.cancer.org/rflpahaven or email wsrelayinfo@yahoo.com.



Get ready for the Book Fair!

Join SRS at its annual Book Fair, a fundraiser to benefit Home & School, a parent-run organization whose goal is to enrich the educational experience of SRS students. Home & School supports many SRS projects such as Hands on Science, the Dimensions programs, the Poetry program and many others.

This year, the Book Fair is adding another opportunity to support our community by working with the **Swarthmore Rotary Club Reading Program**. The Reading Program provides reading support to fourth graders at Columbus Elementary School in Chester, and after students complete the program they are able to choose a book to take home. The program is constantly in need of new books, and we'd like to help supply them with plenty. When SRS parents and students visit the Book Fair, they will have an opportunity to purchase books to be donated to this valuable program.

Visit with local authors Perky Edgerton and Brian Meunier on Thursday evening from 7pm-9pm as they sign their books, which will also be on sale at the Book Fair.

There will be something for everyone, including Audio Books. You'll find a selection of books on parenting and hobbies of all kinds, plus a selection of Swarthmore College Professor's latest books, plus a wide variety of children's books to suit many interests. Please plan to stop by the Book Fair and support SRS and its Home & School.

Students, parents, and community members of all ages are invited to stop by the cafeteria at SRS from April 14th -18th. The event is open from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm on Friday. Evening hours are available on Thursday, April 17 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm.



The Rising Star

Published monthly

Deadlines: 20th 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)

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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.**

- *4/8: School Advisory Committee Mtg – 7:30am
- *4/9: SRS H&S Mtg – SRS Library – 7:30pm
- *4/14-18: Parent/Teacher Conferences (Student Half days)
- *4/14-18: Book Fair and Art Show
- *4/24: Arbor Day Celebration – 1:45pm
- *4/27: Wilmington Blue Rocks Game. – 1:30pm

Last Call for Reporters!

Take advantage of your last opportunity this year to Interview a staff member or community member of SRS for the Rising Star. Students can do the interview 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.

