

**Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
October 10, 2007**

ATTENDEES

Gary Davis, Maria Klumpp, Randie Gallagher, Sharon Graham, Julie Nishimura-Jensen, Tony Liu, Elena Nikonova, Colin Purrington, Ginger Smith, Jody Sophocles, Jodi Dawes, Linda Armour, Linnette Reilly, Tracy Federico, Marj Hatzell, Jackie Lesser, Kirsten Myers, Scott Decatur, Jennifer Vincent, Sara Rauck, Lori Pool, Seva Rostovtsev, Sue Wenger, Claire McLear, Lauren McKinney, Farha Ghannam, Catherine King, Marcia Hiehle, Jill Gaieski, Mary Gay Scanlon, Mary Murray, Emy Starankovic House, Nicola Jefferson, Beth DeBruyn, Linda Martin; Teacher liaison MC Petras

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mark Linkins, WSSD Director of Curriculum

As a result of last month's presentation, Mark received many emails from people who were interested in the program and can teach a wide variety of languages; unfortunately, no one was available to teach after school this first session. However, Carina Yervasi has agreed to put together a training program for those people who are interested in teaching, and to present this program to Swarthmore College for consideration of a ½ credit for high school and college students who agree to teach. This program should be ready later in the year and can be in place for the winter and spring sessions of the planned foreign language classes. The cost of the classes will be \$85 per session.

Randi Gallagher, SRS Gifted Coordinator and Maria Klumpp, School Psychologist

Please see the associated slides also available at www.srskids.org

Only the top 2 ½ percent of students are actually considered gifted by definition. For WSSD, a student needs to score over 130 on the administered test (Wexler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence); however, scores alone are not considered before placement is made in the gifted program. The Wexler test is administered in the spring of 2nd grade; results are sent home over the summer to those who score high enough and may want to go farther. In 3rd grade, PSSA scores are added to the mix for consideration of gifted. Lastly, parent and teacher recommendations are considered.

The Otis Lennon is very accurate; only 20% of those recommended end up not qualifying for gifted based on other factors.

After an evaluation, the school psychologist writes a recommendation report. From here, a Gifted IEP is developed for each child and a Gifted IEP team consisting of teachers, parents, the school psychologist, and the gifted coordinator comes together and creates annual goals that focus on a child's strengths, not weaknesses.

A plan for differentiated instruction is also included, so that the child can remain in his/her own classroom with peers but received targeted, gifted-styled instruction (i.e. advanced materials, novels or tasks, varied journal prompts, differentiated levels of activities, etc...)

The Gifted Support Teacher reviews the Gifted IEP annually with the Gifted Team. She also supports implementation of the IEP, provides enrichment activities, attends conferences and seminars, and shares her research and strategies with the team.

Once a child is in the gifted program s/he remains; there is no additional testing required.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Upcoming special presentations at Home and School will be Rene Strohbeck in November, 2007 to discuss CyberSmart. In February, 2008. Kathy Gemberling and Nancy Clifton will discuss different learning styles.
- The focus this month is on “manners” in our cornerstones. The primary grades had an all-school assembly last week and the upper grades will have their assembly tomorrow.
- We are gearing up for our bullying prevention kickoff...the poster contest is happening now. The winners will be announced for each grade on October 18.
- Aramark is slowing down on implementing the point of sale option, so SRS looks to be the 3rd school to get the program in November. Bagels are back on the menu now, and we've added knives and forks (not just sporks).
- There were many comments on the “yacker tracker” in the cafeteria. This was a well-meaning attempt to make the lunchroom a pleasant experience for all. Please be supportive.
- We have a great School Advisory Committee (SAC) this year headed up by Susan Brake. It meets the Tuesday before the Home and School meeting. The SAC has 5 teachers and 5 parents on it, along with Dr. Davis. The SAC meets monthly. This year, the SAC will focus on creating better relationships with the College and the community. The SAC is also looking at enrichment programs.
- WSSD has hired a social worker
- This is the 3rd year of SRS' “Be a Buddy” program where staff volunteer to buddy up with kids who might need a little extra TLC. The teachers connect regularly with the kids to be supportive of their needs.
- Halloween Parade on October 31
- Parent-Teacher conferences begin in November.

MINUTES

- The minutes of the September 17, 2007 were voted and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Some expenses and revenues are still coming in from last year. Please do your best to file receipts and revenues timely. And if you leave money for Jodi Dawes, please be sure to mark the envelope with a note of what the money is from.

Dimensions in Science: we are still looking to identify more scientists to come into the school for the children. If interested, contact Deborah Hoffman, Beth DeBruyn, or Linda Martin

Hands on Science: is going away next year. We have enough material to photocopy and keep the program running but we are also looking into new programs.

NEW BUSINESS

- Home and School Survey: results were presented.
 - Some interest was expressed in a daytime meeting, so we will try this in December, 2007.
 - There was a split decision on the idea to charge each family \$60 rather than fundraising. Always remember that if you don't want to purchase an item, you can make a tax-deductible donation to Home and School, as it is a 503© organization
 - Home and School is going to provide babysitting services the night of the Bullying meeting for parents (October 25). If you know anyone who might be interested in babysitting (with parent supervisors) please let Beth DeBruyn or Linda Martin know.
- Fundraisers:
 - Sally Foster ends in five days (October 15) but remember you can continue to order online.
 - The SRS Directory is coming
 - Spirit Wear will be advertised in the backpacks later this week or early next week. T-shirts will need to be ordered; all else is available for immediate purchase.
 - Art Note cards. The goal this year is to do it in the art room and not have them sent home. However, the deadline to do this in time for the holidays is October 29th, and with this deadline, we won't get it done in the art room. So we are exploring sending home the Art Cards for those who want to do something by October 29 and then doing the Art Cards in the art room later in the year.
 - Mom's Night Out is shaping up. Tables will be \$40 and there may be a \$5 charge at the door to cover drinks and snacks. Right now we have 8 people confirmed with tables.
- Discussion of air quality at SRS. Many days in this fall's heat, certain rooms have been well over 80 degrees. Teachers and students are uncomfortable. They spend time moving around to find cool places, including the auditorium and other teacher's rooms when they are not occupied. This is also a problem at the middle school and other elementary schools. There has been plenty of information gathered by the teachers to date, so there is no need to explore for more data. There is momentum around this issue right now, and it is suggested that people email their school board member to keep focus on the issue. The EPA also has a "Tools for Schools" toolkit that can be ordered by the school board.

Motion: to allow Beth DeBruyn and Linda Martin to represent the Swarthmore Rutledge School Home and School Association in discussions with the school board regarding our concerns on the air quality at SRS. Motion approved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 17 - PAGE) Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education) will meet at the SRS library. This is a district-wide meeting, not just SRS.
- October 19 - Fall Fair. If doing a scarecrow, please save old clothes and newspapers
- October 25 – Bully prevention night

OPEN ISSUES

None

ADJOURN

9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/

Sharon Graham