

Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
November 14, 2007

ATTENDEES:

Beth DeBruyn, Linda Martin, Sharon Graham, Dr. Davis, Jamie Funk, Donna Ouellette, Kathy Fink, Tony Liu, Beatrice Dickinson, Emy House, Blair Parsons, Jodi Dawes, Lee Seaman, Rene Strohbeck, MC Petras, Linda Armour, Mary Murray Nicola Jefferson

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 10, 2007 were voted and approved.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Rene Strohbeck, SRS Librarian

This month's special guest speaker was SRS Librarian Rene Strohbeck, who discussed CyberSmart! Nether Providence Elementary has been using the site, which promotes internet safety tools, for quite awhile and Wallingford Elementary School began using CyberSmart last year. Director of Curriculum Mark Linkins invited the librarians onto an instructional tech team to develop a scope and sequence for CyberSmart so that all schools were on the same page. There are five units, all of which have age-appropriate learning lessons for the children in elementary school. CyberSmart! Is funded by McGraw-Hill and is free. To learn more, go to www.cybersmartcurriculum.org

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Dr. Davis reported that the primary grades are beginning to study the ocean and that the multi-age class visited the Independence Seaport Museum to support this study. The third grade visited the Academy of Natural Sciences recently to learn about how rocks are formed. The fourth grade, which is undertaking a unit on Pennsylvania studies, took a trip to the Landis Valley. They also met with Karla Messinger who is a descendant of the Lenape tribe; she presented on Native American art craft and lore. The fifth grade went to the Keswick Theatre.
- On November 9, SRS attended a Veterans Day assembly at SHHS – the 4th and 5th graders sang at the event.
- Per Dr. Davis, the band and orchestra are coming along nicely, and Ms. Suarez reports the same for the choral singing. Both art teachers, Teacher Helen and Teacher Brad, are working on projects with their classes that support the current studies in the curriculum.
- SRS is investigating ways to connect with the wider community in our district. Some things being considered include a blanket drive for the SPCA, a type of community action drive, or supporting organizations who work with homeless children in Delaware County.
- Dr. Davis reminded everyone that the recess policy for SRS is that children will stay inside if there is a 20 degree wind chill factor. If there is snow on the ground, or if it is wet, there is no field play. For indoor recess, children will come to the cafeteria with things from their classroom and there are games to play that are available in the cafeteria.
- The WSSD Wellness Committee is in the process of standardizing class party guidelines to be compliant with the PA Dept. of Education guidelines.
- The SAC, which is comprised of 5 teachers, 5 parents, and Dr. Davis, reported that it is developing SRS Guiding Principles, based on survey results that parents and teachers

provided earlier in the year. In addition, SAC is working to form a partnership with the College

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer:

- According to the treasurer, we are on track to hit our fundraising goal for Sally Foster sales. Currently, we have brought in over \$6,000. Internet sales have yet to be tallied. You have until December 16 to order online.
- The Fall Fair was an excellent fundraiser this year, with over \$1,300 raised!
- With the recent purchase of the rock wall for the playground, the playground fund has been closed out.
- We are applying to renew our tax exempt status.

Dimensions in Art

- An artist for the 5th grade project has been selected – Paul Downie. He has worked with children's projects in the past and was a strong candidate.

Dimension in Social Studies

- Right around Election Day, Dimensions in Social Studies recently sent home a form discussing our local elections and municipalities,

Dimensions in Science

- Four new scientists have been recruited to support Dimensions in Science.

Dimensions in Technology

- We are investigating putting our directory advertisers up on the Home and School website with a section devoted to coupons.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mom's Night Out:

- Mark your calendars now! Mom's Night Out is on November 30 from 7-9 p.m. So far, we have 20 vendors and there will be no charge to enter. Every vendor will provide an item to raffle. The possibility that funds raised can be donated to a worthy local charity will be further discussed by the committee.
- The Art Cards will not be available in time for the holidays. We will begin to promote them after the holidays.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Corson's class asked for, and received, approval for a \$105 outlay from the Teacher Initiative Fund to support the adoption of two guinea pigs.
- Box Tops were submitted - \$493 just now, combined with a spring submission of \$264 brings our annual total for Box Tops to \$762.60
- Reminder that with conferences in November, there are five half-days.
- HSA is still finalizing the emergency phone tree
- Babysitting was provided for the anti-bullying parent session in October. Some lessons learned include having an RSVP and to split up groups by age.

- Regarding the heat in certain classrooms at SRS, the new District Superintendent has said he will form a committee on air quality in the District and that they will explore interim solutions.

The next Home and School meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on December 12.

Meeting adjourned, 9 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sharon Graham