



The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

Home of the Panther Cubs!

Volume 15, Issue 3

November 2008

NOVEMBER 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that November is here and that we will soon be having Parent-Teacher conferences. SRS teachers are looking forward to meeting with you November 20th -26th, 2008. We will dismiss school at 12:30 p.m. on these days. Our evening conferences will be held on Thursday, November 20th. Your child's teacher will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient conference time.

Conferences are a great way for parents and teachers to share information that will allow our students to have a successful school year. Remember to relax and know that we are all here to help every child be successful!

Ten Tips for a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference

1. Ask your child if there is anything that he would like you to discuss with the teacher.
2. Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
3. Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
4. Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
5. Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
6. Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
7. Keep your emotions under control.
8. Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.
9. Express appreciation for the conference.
10. Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

As part of their study of the United Nations and world geography, our third grade celebrated United Nations Day by having a lunchtime international food festival on Friday, October 24th. Students sampled foods from around the world. All third graders were assigned a specific continent. They then brought in a representative food from a country on that continent to make the celebration possible.

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*You really can
change the world if
you care enough.*

*Marion
Wright-Edelman*

Principal's Letter (cont.)

We held our Halloween parade on Friday, October 31st. Ghosts and goblins, witches and wizards, as well as a variety of other colorful and scary figures, paraded around SRS to the delight of parents and other special guests. They sang *Have You Seen the Ghost of John?*, *The Addams Family*, and *Witch's Brew*. After singing and dancing to the *Bat Dance*, they returned to their rooms for classroom parties.

May you and your family enjoy the pleasures of the coming Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Gary Davis
Principal



TE@M

Technology, Engineering @nd Math

TE@M Players Needed!

TE@M Night, Thursday, November 20 – Volunteers are needed to staff tables and assist with activities.

TE@M Career Day, Thursday, December 4 – Visit your child's classroom to share you technology, engineering or math profession.



To join the roster please e-mail
technology@srskids.org



For more information contact

TE@M Night: Andrew Armour awarmour@comcast.net, Tony Liu tw83liu@gmail.com
Career Day: Beth DeBruyn beth@bethandchris.com

Home & School Letter - October 2008



Dear Parents,

It has already been a busy Fall at SRS! The BTS picnic was a great success and the 5th Grade raised over \$900 through their pizza and bake sale. Home and School was glad to show their support by donating the drinks for the evening.

The Sally Foster Gift Wrap sale concluded last week, and while we don't have an official report, we want to thank everyone who supported the sale. As we've mentioned, Sally Foster is one of the most important fundraisers for H&S and in the past has raised over \$6000. Coupon Books are still for sale and we encourage you to purchase one to take advantage of the many coupons and a reminder that 50% of the purchase price supports H&S.

We held our H&S meeting October 15th and thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to attend. We had some great presentations including:

- Ruth Boch- Ruth explained her concept for a Day of Service to be held on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in January. Ruth is still exploring the details but is hopeful for collaboration with both the Community and Swarthmore College. Thank you Ruth, for bringing this important event to the SRS community.
- Laura Maola-Laura gave an informative description of the Dimensions in ART program and the many ongoing activities, including cataloging and tagging the many works of art at SRS, working with the Art Goes to School program and helping with the major undertaking of the year, the 5th Grade art project. Project details are close to finalization and it promises to be a wonderful experience for the 5th graders!
- The Green Group-Beth Murray and several members of the Green Group gave a very informative presentation on Energy Saving Tips. It was a great discussion and we have included with the Rising Star an entry of the "Top Ten" energy saving recommendations for households. Thank you to Beth, Natalia, Stacy and Sara for taking the time to share this information with us. Also thank you to Beth Murray for the donation of a rug to the Music Room, which came as a result of a discussion during our meeting! Check it out, it looks great.

Full minutes of our meeting are available on the srskids.org website and a more detailed summary can be found in the Rising Star.

While there has been lots going on, there is still more to come!

- Mock Election-Sally Fulham, the Dimensions in Social Studies Coordinator will sponsor a Mock Election on November 3rd. A poster-making activity was held on October 27th in preparation for the election. Contact Sally if you are able to volunteer for this fun learning activity with the kids.
- Dr. Rubeis-Dr. Rubeis, WSSD School Superintendant, will be our Guest Speaker at our November 12th H&S meeting. Please plan on joining us for an informative evening. The business meeting will start at 7:00 and Dr. Rubeis at 7:30 in the auditorium.
- School Directory-Notice came home Friday October 17th that Directories are on sale. Please support this important fundraising activity for Home and School.

Thanks to all those who have stepped up to fill anticipated committee vacancies for next year! We appreciate your support. There are still many open spots and projects. Think about sponsoring one of our open activities or filling a committee position. You'll meet great people and have fun too!

Linda and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and professional volunteers. The SRS community is richer as a result of the contributions of these individuals. If you can't spare the time to volunteer in this busy world, join us at a H&S meeting, it is a great way to connect with your school community. As always, if there are any questions or concerns feel free to contact Linda (lfarmour@comcast.net) or me, Mary (mogorman220@comcast.net)

Mary Murray and Linda Armour, Home and School Co-Presidents

Home and School Association Meeting October 2008

The Home and School meeting was held on October 15th. Dr. Davis reported that the school district is considering a lot of energy saving proposals throughout all schools. After school activities for 2008 – 2009 will include Science Explorers, Chess Club, Jogging Club, Homework Club, and Math Club. We have one volunteer for the district wellness committee and others are welcome - the next meeting is on November 10th at 3:30 at the Middle School

Carlin McCoy reported that SAC met with the Swarthmore College orchestra and the arboretum coordinator recently. They are exploring ways to get SRS involved with the orchestra rehearsals and arboretum initiatives. Teachers are investigating incorporating these activities into their day.

The three co-chairs for the 5th grade project have gotten started this year and are close to finalizing their project. Other upcoming Dimensions in Art projects include maintaining the art collection throughout the school, marking our artwork, cataloging the art collection, and to perhaps create a guided tour with brochures, or a videography.

Dimensions in Social Studies created Get Out the Vote posters after school on October 27th in support of their mock election on November 3.

The School Directories are out!!

On Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, traditionally a day of service, SRS will offer a program from 9 a.m. to 12 noon that will include several projects that children of all ages can work on and complete that day. The projects will be both local and global in nature, and will be educational. Several teachers have already volunteered, and we are looking to incorporate Swarthmore College.

Beth Murray talked about reducing your carbon footprint. She shared 10 easy ways to reduce your carbon footprint. See the corresponding article for more information.

The primary grades requested and received \$400 to support a bus trip to Plush Mills for a Halloween concert. HSA requested that they raise \$200 of the cost in return.

A survey has been posted on line to accept your thoughts on expanding the SRS walking zone

Open positions for next year are listed below. Please consider volunteering now so you can learn from the current volunteer:

- School Publicity
- Educational Workshop Coordinator
- *"The Rising Star"* contributing writer
- Hospitality
- Dimensions in Science
- Grant researcher/writer

The next meeting is on November 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the SRS Library.

SRS Home & School Needs You!

Thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to fill some of our H&S positions:

Ali Holsinger & Lauren McKinney – School Directory 2009-2010
Ruth Bock –Community Service Day Coordinator
Gary King – Electronic Communications
Patti D'Arcy – Gift Wrap Fundraising 2009-2010

There are several openings for this year and next year. Please review the list below and contact the program chairperson if listed, or presidents@srskids.org if you're interested.

NOW for 2008-2009 school year!

For all volunteer opportunities listed on srskids.org, and **particularly** for the following NEW positions:

1. **School Publicity**– Provide periodic articles to local media informing community of SRS happenings.
2. **Grant Writer/Researcher** – Research and submit grant applications for the benefit of a variety of SRS programs.
3. **Educational Workshop Coordinator** – Organize one evening (or Saturday) of several workshop sessions featuring parent and community volunteers who have a background in areas that parents are interested in learning more about. (Please refer to the Take 5 Survey results on www.srskids.org. for a list of topics of interest to parents.)
4. **Newsletter Contributing Writer** – To highlight SRS families from diverse cultures. Select, interview, and write about an SRS family from another culture or background. Submit written article to the Rising Star and to the SRS website monthly.
5. **Srskids.org website maintenance** - Keep website current and updated with SRS community happenings.
6. **Yearbook Coordinator** –Head up a yearbook committee of students & parents to construct a school-wide yearbook.

SOON for 2009-2010 school year!

The following H&S positions will be vacant next school year. If you think that you may be interested in any one of these during next year, please consider helping out this year to learn more about it:

Position	2008-2009 Volunteers
1. Dimensions in Technology	Tony Liu, tw83liu@gmail.com
2. Dimensions in Science	Debora Hoffman, piehoff@comcast.net
3. Hospitality	Sharon Crowley, scrowley247@aol.com Robyn Holford, hineyhandbags@comcast.net

Please contact Linda Armour and Mary Murray if you are interested at presidents@srskids.org.

Swarthmore-Rutledge Home and School Volunteer Form (2008-2009)

Please check all areas where you can offer help. Training will be provided where appropriate. The program coordinator will contact volunteers throughout the year as activities occur. Thank you all for your help! Thank you.

(Please **PRINT** clearly)

Volunteer: _____	Phone#: _____	e-mail: _____
Child's name: _____	Teacher: _____	Grade: _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Yes, I am interested in being a Homeroom Parent (usually a shared duty) in the following classroom(s):

Ms./Mr. _____

Volunteer Opportunities

- Library Volunteer
- Health Screening Volunteer
- Art Room Volunteer
- Art Goes to School
- Teacher Appreciation/Hospitality
- Publicity
- Grounds Clean-Up
- Visiting Scientist
- Writer to highlight SRS families from different cultures for the Rising Star
- www.srskids.org website maintenance

Grade Level Events

- Pumpkin Sale (4th grade, 10/24/08)
- 5th Grade Art Project
- Children's Garden (2nd grade)
- African Dance (3rd grade, 6/5/09)

Dimensions Programs

- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Art
- Technology

Fundraisers and Family Events

- Back to School Picnic (9/18/08)
- Sally Foster Giftwrap (9/19/08-10/7/08)
- Fall Festival (10/24/08):
 - Book Swap
 - Ice Cream Social
 - Bake Sale
 - Scarecrow Making
- Math, Technology and Engineering Career Day (12/04/08)
- Family Bingo Night (2/06/09)
- Silent Auction (3/20/09)
- Book Fair (3/30/09-4/3/09)
- Math & Technology Night (4/2/09)
- Themed Family Dinner Dance (5/1/09)
- SRS Spirit Wear Sales (TBA)

New Programs (seeking leadership)

- Green Projects
- Community Service Day
- After-School Science
- Educational Workshops for parents
- Grant Researcher/Writer
- School-wide Yearbook

Questions? Please call or e-mail:

Lee Seaman (610-328-5372)

leeannseaman@comcast.net

or visit www.srskids.org

SRS Home & School welcomes
Dr. Rudy Rubeis,
Superintendent of WSSD

Wednesday, Nov. 12th
In the SRS Library (or Auditorium)
7:00 p.m. Home & School Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Discussions with Dr. Rubeis

A THANKSGIVING DESSERT



Cherry Cranberry Salad

CDKitchen <http://www.cdkitchen.com>

Category: Cranberry Salad

Serves/Makes: 12 | **Difficulty Level:** 2 | **Ready In:** > 2 hrs

Ingredients:

- 1 large cherry Jello
- 2 cans whole cranberries
- 3 cans Mandarin oranges, drained (reserve juice)
- 1 1/2 cup of liquid (reserved juice plus water if necessary)
- 8 ounces cream cheese, cut into small cubes
- 4 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

Directions:

Heat orange juice and water until hot. Mix in Jello, cranberries and lemon juice. Chill until slightly set. Stir in oranges and nuts. Cut cream cheese in small pieces and spread on top; push into Jello until covered. Return to refrigerator for 2 hours or more.

TOP 10 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR FAMILY FOOTPRINT

At the October 2008 Home and School Meeting, SRS parent Beth Murray shared the top 10 ways she and a group of Swarthmore mothers (Stacy Clements, Beth Resweber, Sarah Sultzer, Natalia Volz) have used successfully to reduced their family's footprint:

10. Make waste-free lunches
9. Stop buying bottled water (see [post about Stainless Steel Bottles](#))
8. Stop accepting plastic shopping bags
7. Recycle everything
6. Use appliances wisely
5. Be smart about lighting
4. Stop burning coal (choose wind instead)
3. Drive less
2. Tighten up your house
1. Turn down your thermostat in the winter



Beth also provided a list of web sites where you can find out more about reducing your family's footprint.

[Grist.org](#) – Ask Umbra

[RMI.org](#) – Rocky Mountain Institute

For appliance information:

[Greenerchoices.org](#) – Consumer Reports' green website

[Energystar.gov](#)

[Dsireusa.org](#) – info about state and federal rebates

For recycling information:

[Earth911.org](#)

[SwarthmorePA.org](#)

To sign up for wind energy:

[PECO.com](#)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



The faculty lounge is in need of a microwave. If anyone can donate a new or used appliance, please bring it into the office.

Thank you,
The Faculty

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Calling All 4th & 5th Grade Students (& Parents)!



Looking for something to do this winter that's creative and educational? Get involved with an innovative, competitive program: ODYSSEY OF THE MIND - www.odysseyofthemind.com. Students work in small teams (up to 7 kids), to develop a creative and dynamic solution to one of five unique problems. Build, design and write your "solution," which might include anything from building mechanical devices to presenting interpretations of literary classics. This program is a great way to challenge kids to think "outside the box", work together as a team and enhance your creativity and problem-solving skills.

What makes Odyssey different?

This is nothing like your typical sporting event. The competitive element encourages kids to be the best that they can be, but it's a friendly competition. Kids learn from and even cheer on their competitors. It is not a college bowl or competition about knowledge. It's all about creativity. Kids are rewarded more for how they apply their knowledge, skills and talents, not a "right" answer. In fact, in Odyssey of the Mind problems, there isn't one right answer. Ever.

URGENT! COACHES WANTED: Each team needs 1 - 2 parent coaches to guide the team and make sure the kids stay on track with their problem solving. The kids do ALL of the work. Coaches, however, must attend a one-day training and be prepared to dedicate at least 1 – 2 hours per week through March 2009, including taking your team to the Regional Competition. (Team members decide collectively when and where to meet and how often.) **Coaches Training is on Saturday, Nov 8, 2008 from 8:30am – 3:30 p.m. at the New Hope Elementary School in New Hope, PA.**

Fees: No sign-up fee. Each student contributes to cost of supplies, props & materials as needed for your team problem.

Contact Daria Duda at dduda@mac.com (610-585-0266) with questions or to sign up for a team by **Friday, Nov. 7**. Daria will be attending the Coaches Training on Nov 8 and will be ready to coach 1 team. If more than 7 kids are interested, we'll need more coaches to attend this training. Visit www.odysseyofthemind.com for more information about this program.



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.**

- *11/4: In-Service Day – NO SCHOOL
- *11/12: H&S Meeting – 7:00 pm
- *11/20-26: Parent-Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal at 12:30 pm
- *11/27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Rising Star Spotlights 2008-2009

This year in addition to interviewing the teachers and employees of SRS, we are looking to highlight families with diverse cultures. If you would like to interview a teacher or other staff member or a family, please do so and send the information by the 20th of the month to be included in the Rising Star. Also, if you are the member of a diverse culture family, you can also send in a piece on your family directly. Entries can be sent to me, Robin Boyer, via email (rdgenter@aol.com). If you have any questions, I can be reached at (215) 327-7866.