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HAVE YOU  
HEARD YOUR  
CHILD SING  
"LIFT EVERY  
VOICE"?

YOU MAY BE  
SURPRISED.

## From the Principal's Desk

### Dear SRS Families:

The SRS Winter Concert was held on Thursday, January 14. The SRS band, string orchestra, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus performed selections such as *Fiddles on Fire*, *Trombo Mambo*, and *Snow is Falling Still* expertly and enthusiastically. The audiences at both the afternoon and evening concerts gave them rave reviews.

As I watched these boys and girls prepare for the Winter Concert, I admired their focus and dedication. I saw them grow in self-confidence as they worked to develop and refine their skills. The SRS school community is very proud of all of these talented students.

Special thanks must be given to Miss Suarez and Mr. Shaull for helping our students achieve such high standards.



### The John Blake Quartet

The John Blake Quartet performed at SRS on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. They started out playing "Lift Every Voice" in memory of Martin Luther King and asking our students to sing along. Mr. Blake was pleasantly surprised and impressed that our students were well familiar with the lyrics to this song.

Throughout the concert, they focused on helping our students understand rhythm, melody, and harmony. Mr. Blake, a natural teacher, spoke about Duke Ellington, the Cotton Club, and Harlem. He gave them insight into the art of improvisation when the Quartet played "Take the 'A' Train".

We thank SRS parent, Brooke Penders, for coordinating this wonderful event and for writing the Target grant that funded it.

## Principal's Desk cont.

### SRS Haitian Relief Drive: Hundreds for Haiti



SRS is sponsoring a fundraising drive so that we can help the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. Please send in donations with your child that will be collected and given to the **American Red Cross Haitian Relief Effort**. Funds will be collected from now through the end of February. **Members of the SRS Student Council are spearheading this effort.**

### Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at SRS

Thanks to the efforts of **Jennifer Kennedy** and **Pat Hacik**, we had our annual **Martin Luther King assembly program** on Friday, January 15, 2010 in the SRS auditorium. Ms. Hacik, the hostess of this event, told the audience that **"We are here to celebrate a great American hero. We are part of his dream."**

Following Ms. Hacik's welcome and introduction, X.J. Kennedy's poem *Martin Luther King Day* was read. The third stanza of this poem is:

**He dreamed a world  
Where people stood  
Not separate, but  
In brotherhood.**



Mrs. Kennedy's and Ms. Hacik's classes then sang *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Afterwards, the audience saw a slideshow highlighting the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mrs. Kennedy's and Ms. Hacik's classes then performed a short play based on the Margaret Davidson's book, *I Have a Dream*.

Ask your child about Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy.

How can your family help realize his dream?

## Principal's Desk cont.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

On Monday, January 18, 2010 from 9:00-12:00 p.m., **130 SRS student** volunteers worked on a variety of **service projects** in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The following were some of the projects they worked on:

- **Spinning friendship bracelets** out of yarn for **children in Guatemala.**
- **Conducting experiments** to learn how to **protect Crum Creek** and other waterways.
- **Preparing nutritious soups** for **home-bound Philadelphians.**
- **Creating a mural** for the students at CADES.

Our student volunteers understand **Martin Luther King's message:**

Everybody can be great... because **anybody can serve.** You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. **You only need a heart full of grace.** A soul generated by love.

#### MLK Service Day Student Participants Thoughts about the Importance of This Day

It's about helping other people.

**Katrina Bernaus**

A way to begin helping the world; a way to inspire people to help

**Jonah Esty**

Helping people who may not have everything they need.

**Mizuki Davis**

It is important to give back for what Martin Luther King did for us. We wouldn't have the same rights if he hadn't lived. We need to remember what Martin Luther King did.

**Julia Gyourko**



## From the Principal's Desk cont.

### Modular Management Systems Initiative for Grades Kindergarten through Five

The use of the **Modular Management System (MMS)** will be extended to teachers and parents of elementary students next year. The **Teacher Portal** will allow teachers to have access to student attendance and parent contact information, and they will be able to complete student progress reports in a more efficient manner. The **Parent Portal** will also allow parents to have access to the same information. This system of information



management will serve to expedite the state requirements for reporting student data. This technology utilizes the district's server and conforms to all security guidelines to help ensure privacy and security.

During the summer ten elementary teachers will be trained to use MMS. They, in turn, will train all teachers in each elementary school at the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

### Reminder Regarding Traffic and Safety Procedures

The following are **illegal** and **dangerous practices** and **must be avoided**:

- Pulling into the main SRS faculty parking lot to drop students off
- Passing or crossing in front of a loading or unloading school bus with its flashers on
- Making U-turns in the streets where our children are crossing
- Double parking to drop off passengers
- Crossing in front of oncoming traffic to get to a drop off place
- Using driveways on College or Princeton Avenues to make turnarounds

Sincerely yours,  
**Gary Davis**





## A Word of Thanks

We would like to thank the **130 SRS students** who participated in the Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service.

Through this day of service, SRS students gave:

- 800 meals for home-bound Philadelphia-area residents;  
300 soups and 500 breakfast bags
- 500 greeting cards to go with the meals
- 260 bracelets for children in Guatemala
- 14 knitted squares, to be assembled into blankets for senior citizens
- 133 books to homeless children who are learning to read
- 101 painted birds for a mural for CADES
- countless grains of rice to the UN World Food Program
- And they learned how to protect the creek in their own backyard.

We would also like to thank the following **SRS staff members**: Ed Gaynor, Noreen Gaynor, Elma Jones, Dr. Davis, Sharon Artinstall, and a HUGE shout-out to Pat Miles --all for coming to work on the service day.

We also want to thank all **parent volunteers** who helped during the morning. A special thank you goes to the following SRS parents: Heidi Carp, Denise Disney, Jean Fleshcute, Sho Gottlieb, Jen Govannicci, Eric Jensen, and Liz Vallen for their help in planning the day.

Finally, we want to thank other members of our community who made this such a meaningful and productive day: Cindi Clark from CADES, Cyndi Dinger from MANNA, Kathy Finley from Finely a Knitting Party, SRS teacher Michael Haines, Needra Johnson from the Family Management Center, Sandy Liss from Swarthmore College, Will Richan, the Swarthmore Coop, and Eve Walter of ART-WORKS!



## A Few Words from Home and School

### Dear Friends,

Here comes February, the middle of winter, and many of us are hoping for some more snowy day fun. While we patiently wait, we find ourselves fortunate enough to be involved and stimulated by the many offerings in our SRS community.

Perhaps one of the most popular and rewarding events has become H&S sponsored **MLK Day of Service**. This is the second year we are proud to support **H&S volunteer Ruth Bock** as she lead countless SRS community volunteers in an incredible day of service. January 18, 2010 was an incredible day at SRS- and school was closed! We cannot applaud Ruth Bock and her amazing crew of volunteers enough. We should all feel proud to be part of such a great community.



H&S volunteer **Brooke Penders' grant proposal efforts** have once again benefitted SRS through a **fully funded Arts Grant from Target** for **The John Blake Jr. Educational Concert at SRS** on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Throughout the concert, they focused on helping our students understand rhythm, melody, and harmony. Highlights of what Mr. Blake has been doing since he visited SRS a year ago include a three week African tour. A Maryland videographer filmed the entire project to be presented as a documentary to PBS and a feature film at the Cannes film festival in France. He has also just finished recording a new CD which will be released in March 2010. The project was partially funded by grants from PennPAT and the Independence Foundation Fellowships in the Arts. The recording included the John Blake Quartet, Howard University's Afro Blue, vocalist & pianist Evelyn Simpson-Curenton and pianist Mulgrew Miller.

By the time the Rising Star has gone to "print" the famous **H&S Bingo Night** will have occurred on Jan.29th. Sure to be a success as always (as we are quickly selling out and organizing the fabulous donated prizes). We look forward to the fun lead by organizers **Vippy Yee** and **Lisa Kotzen**.

## Home & School Letter cont.

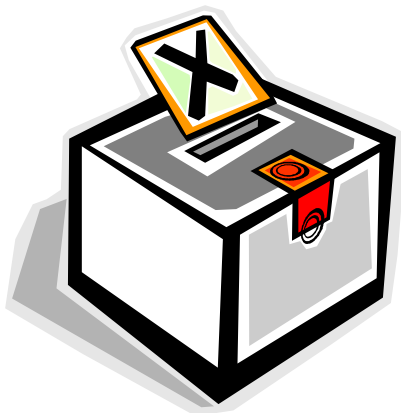


Another very important fundraiser is also in progress. **Jen Vincent** and **Kathy Hughes** are working extremely hard to publish a **super cookbook** to be available for **Mother's Day**. The cookbook will feature favorite recipes from members of our community. Please capture your child's favorite recipe, or share a family favorite. You are sure to treasure this unique cookbook through the years.

And, continuing our **H&S community service minded philosophy** as well, proceeds from our cookbooks sales will not only help fund Home and School projects, but will also help those who are so hungry in these tough economic times. **49 million people** in the US are now considered to not have adequate food on a regular basis and **17 million of these are children**. **All monies raised over the H&S budgeted goal will be donated to a local food bank**. **WE STILL NEED RECIPES AND PRE ORDERS**. Feb. 8th is our deadline to make this happen.

We reported in our Dec. Rising Star newsletter that **H&S has a surplus of \$6,782.55 outside of restricted accounts**. This \$6,782.55 is a carryover from the last few years of successful fundraising.

We have four proposals that were submitted by the Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Proposals have been published on [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org). A majority vote of H&S members present at Feb. 10, 9:30 am 2010 meeting will determine whether the proposal is approved. Please take a moment to review them if you haven't already. And please come to the meeting if possible to participate in this process. Don't hesitate to contact us prior to the meeting if you have any questions.



Enjoy the second half of the school year!

Thanks again for all your support and kind words of appreciation-  
**Carlin McCoy and Katie Crawford**  
 H&S Co-Presidents

**49 million Americans do not have adequate food on a regular basis. Please help feed the hungry in our community by supporting the H&S Cook-**

**Have an opinion on how to use the surplus H&S funds? Review the 4 proposals and vote at the next H&S Meeting, Wed. Feb. 10 at 9:30AM!**

# Rising Star Community Interview

By Margaret Betz



**Victoria Scanlon**

**D**o you remember what it felt like entering the first grade? The nervous excitement of long hallways and strange classrooms. The pride of being in school with the “big kids” and eating lunch in a cafeteria. Learning to read and work with numbers. What a huge adjustment!

Like other SRS first graders, **Victoria Scanlon** is making the adjustment quite well. Victoria is the daughter of **Andy** and **Cherilyn Scanlon** and has a four-year-old brother named **Drew**. She is in **Miss Fries’** first grade class, likes her cats and playing with her dog. Thank you to the Scanlons for the chance to talk to a student just beginning her academic life!

**Do you have a favorite book?** *Barbie and the Three Musketeers*

**Is there someone you would enjoy meeting?** Taylor Swift because I like one of her songs.

**How do you usually spend a Saturday?** I’ll often go to Tom Jones restaurant for breakfast with my family. Then I have a playdate with a neighborhood friend, then I come home and bake cookies and watch T.V.

**Name a place you’ve always wanted to visit. What would you do when you got there?** Hawaii. I would go swimming in the ocean.

**What do you like best about SRS?** My friends and my teacher.

*“I would go swimming in the ocean.”*



# SRS Library News

## The Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program

By Mrs. Stroback



**T**his year the students at SRS are participating in the **Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Program**. It is sponsored by the Pennsylvania

School Librarians Association. One purpose of this program is to promote the reading of quality books.

There are charts displayed in our school library that list the **15 books that have been nominated by grade level**. In order to be able to participate in the voluntary

voting in March, **a child has to have read or listened to three selections**. Each week the librarian is reading nominated books to the children during their scheduled library class. The SRS library owns a copy of each book that has been selected. The books are on a special reserve cart for the students who want to take the books home to read. **The voting will take place in March in the school library**. Our tally will be included in the Pennsylvania tally. It will be exciting to see if the SRS students agree with students across the state on choosing the winning books. **Look for the winners to be announced in the Spring Library Newsletter**.

### Green Tip of the Month

**Y**ou may already know that it is required by law to recycle your residential Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL's) and Single Use Batteries when they are no longer working. The content of these items are **hazardous to the environment** when sent to a land fill or incinerated as most of the trash is in our area.

The closest places to SRS to **recycle these items** are your local **Home Depot Stores, Rose Tree Park Hunt club, Widener University and Ikea**. Once you have gathered a bundle, call your neighbors and friends to coordinate a drop off. **The Delaware County Solid Waste Authority's Office located at the Hunt Club in Rose Tree Park** also takes CFL's during business hours. In addition, keep an eye out for their **Hazardous Waste drop off event scheduled for September 2010**.



## A BIG BINGO THANK YOU

### Dear SRS Families and Friends,

We want to thank everyone who helped to make this year's **BINGO Night** such a successful event. A huge thank you goes to all of the families who attended BINGO Night, to the families who donated items for the raffle baskets, to homeroom parents and class reps that coordinated the class gift baskets, to the amazing staff and faculty at SRS for helping us organize the event, and to the volunteers who made BINGO night happen.

We also want to acknowledge and thank the following businesses and organizations for their generous contributions:

- Swarthmore Recreation Association
- Swarthmore Swim Club
- Swarthmore Players Club
- Swarthmore Community Center
- Swarthmore Co-op
- Swarthmore Hardware
- Hobbs
- The Creative Living Room
- Renato's Pizza
- Vicky's Place
- Oasis
- Java Joe's
- Aria Mediterranean Cuisine
- Garnet Soccer Camp
- Executive Cleaners
- The Head Nut
- Healing Partners Day Spa
- Occasionally Yours

In addition to being a fun night out for our families, this Home and School event raised over \$3,000. **Thank you again for generously supporting this year's BINGO Night!**

Sincerely,  
**Vippy Yee and Lisa Kotzen**

## SRS Upcoming Events

- Feb 10 : **9:30 am Home and School Meeting**
- Feb 12 : **NO SCHOOL** In-Service Day
- Feb 15 : **NO SCHOOL** Presidents' Day
- Feb 26 : **Jump Rope for Heart**