



# ROMMELT NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2011

South Williamsport Area  
School District  
<http://www.swasd.org>

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## Rommelt Teachers

Mr. Brown  
 Ms. Cooke  
 Mrs. Cruz  
 Mrs. Ehrgood  
 Mrs. Flerlage  
 Mr. Hill  
 Mrs. Ogden  
 Mr. Pearson  
 Mrs. Puller  
 Mrs. Sahn  
 Mrs. Zielewicz

## *A few Ideas for Parent/Teacher Conferences:*

In a few short weeks, Parent/Teacher Conferences will be here. The conferences have been scheduled for Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The conferences are a time for parents to meet face-to-face with their child's teacher to discuss his/her educational progress. I would like to share some ideas for a successful Parent/Teacher Conference and some advice when looking at your child's report card.

**Be on Time:** As conferences are tightly scheduled, your promptness is appreciated and necessary to get the most out of your meeting.

**Bring your Child with you to the Conference:** The Parent/Teacher Conference is about your Child. They need to be an active participant in the conference to hear the good things they are doing and the things their teachers feel they need to improve on. *We encourage you to bring them with you.*

**Be Prepared:** Have your questions/concerns ready. Bring along a pencil and paper to make notes on what is discussed.

**Update the teacher:** If there are any circumstances regarding your child's life out of school that may affect his/her schoolwork, please inform the teacher. Knowing about such events can help the teacher provide additional support needed.

**Talk to your child:** After the conference, sit down with them and discuss what was talked about in the conference. Your personal attitude will affect your child more than anything else. Be sure to emphasize the positive but also discuss areas that need improvement. Brainstorm with your child to come up with ideas to ensure success at school.

**Finally, keep the communication between home and school open throughout the school year:** Parent's are always welcome to contact their child's teacher.

## Report Cards: Advice for Parent

A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride; it can also cause concern, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals and reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most important, it is a time for you to communicate with your children and determine a path for future academic enrichment and social-emotional growth.

## Focus on the Positive

Regardless of the grades your child brings home, you must first focus on positive aspects of the report. This is not always an easy task. For some, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or citizenship grade, or praising an academic accomplishment or a perfect attendance record. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

## Ask the Right Questions

Be careful not to overreact to low grades, or grades you view to be unsatisfactory. Instead, use this time to look at past performance and plan for the future. Talk to your child, asking questions to understand how a particular grade was earned:

### Was the work too difficult?

Could the pace of the class be inappropriate (too fast, so that your child feels "lost," or too slow, causing your child to feel "bored")?

### Does your child complete all homework and ask questions when problems arise?

The answers you receive might indicate a need to review your child's study habits. Determine whether or not your child is recording all assignments and bringing home all materials necessary to complete them. Does your child have a specific nightly homework time (Sunday through Thursday) when they cannot be disturbed? If not, this would be a great time to establish one! If so, is it long enough? Does your child have a specific place to study where resources (including someone to answer questions) are available and distractions are minimized? Is your child completing all homework on a nightly basis, or are assignments being turned in late, or not at all? Once you have determined the problem, you can begin to create a solution.

## The Next Step

Creating a plan to maximize future academic success is an important part of every child's education. Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met, as well as rewards and consequences if they are not. Type the "official plan" and post one copy in a prominent household location, another in your child's binder, and forward another to her teacher. Involving your child gives her ownership and importance in this process, and this makes the report card important not only to you, but also to your child.

As parents and teachers, we want the best for children, but in too many cases this is measured only by the number of A's and B's brought home. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job that he can. Encourage him to succeed, and measure his progress in realistic terms, letting him know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure her growth, and the most advanced child can monitor her progress. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success. I hope some of these ideas will help, and if you have any questions regarding your child's report card do not hesitate to call me.



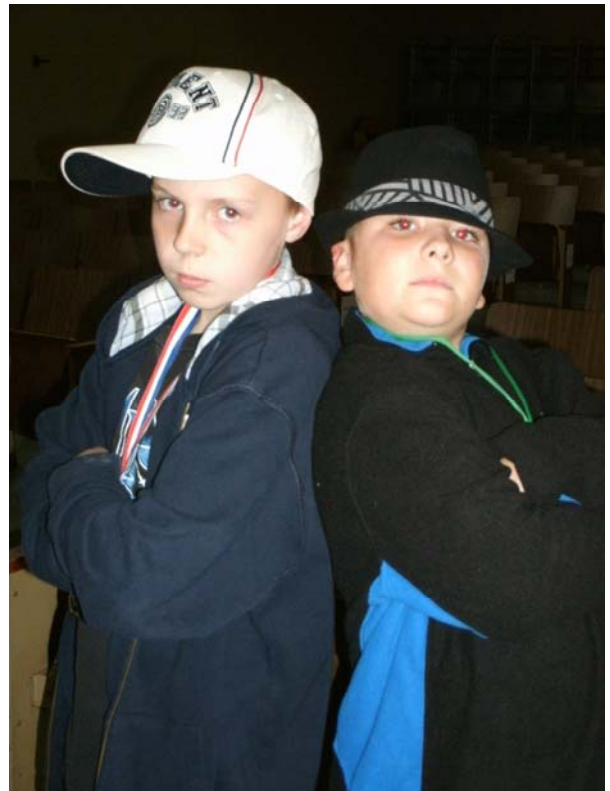
## What's Happening in Music . . .

What do you know about the Civil War? the Revolutionary War? World War I or II? Most Americans can spout off some tidbit of trivia about any of these events in our country's history, but how about the War of 1812? Ask any 6<sup>th</sup> grade Rommelt student about it and you just might hear something like this . . .

Boom-Boom-Ch-Ch-Boom- Boom-Ch . . .

The song with the "oh say can you see"  
was written by Mr. Francis Scott Key.  
Where he was the battles were many,  
this is what we call Fort McHenry.  
Some warriors got hurt, some got sick,  
well, this man found himself in the brig.  
And there was the flag, tattered and torn,  
for which the Star-Spangled Banner was born.

After learning about the events leading up to the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were given a *musical* assignment. Write a rap about Francis Scott Key and his role in the writing of the SSB. Chris Bower and Bryce Brewer wrote the example above, showing their expertise in rhyme and rhythm.



## FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

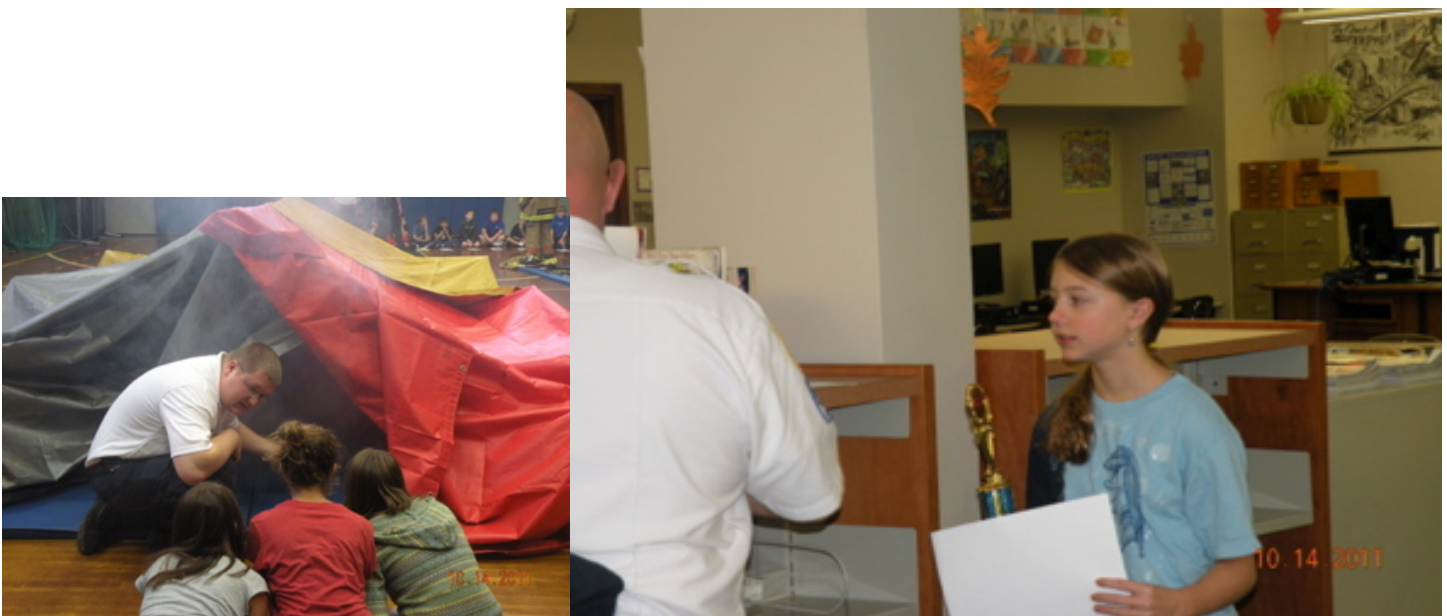


*Fire Prevention Week* activities were held at the Rommelt Middle School on Friday, October 14th. A poster contest was held for students to create a poster with this year's theme "Protect Your Family from Fire".

**Grade 5** winners were Olivia Welter, 1st place, Megan Weber, 2nd place, and Aieronna Mandville, 3rd place winner.

**Grade 6** winners were Anna Plotnikova, 1st place, Alyssa Day, 2nd place, and Alexandra Lair, 3rd place winner.

**Grand Prize** winner was sixth grader Ally Smith shown below receiving her prize.



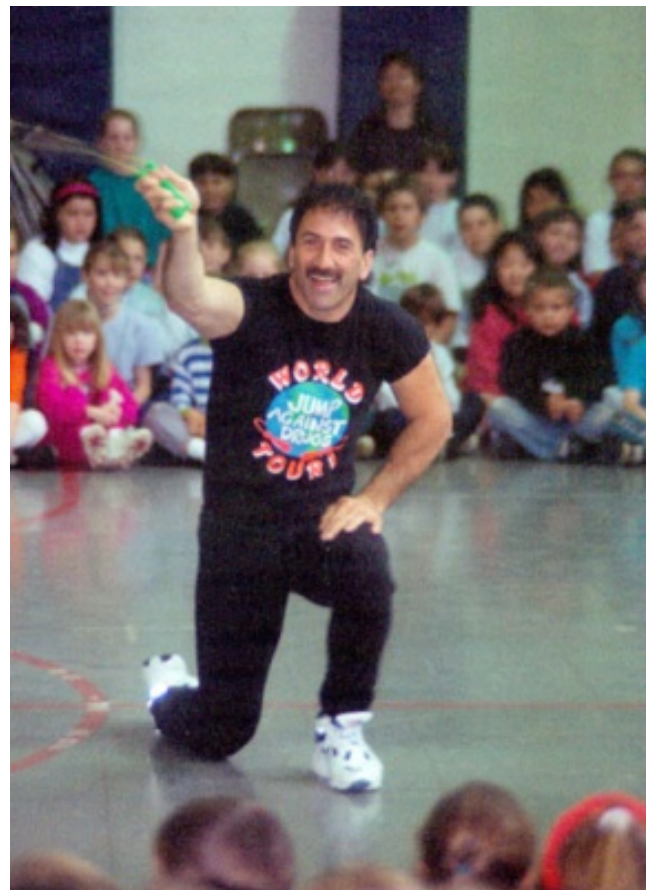
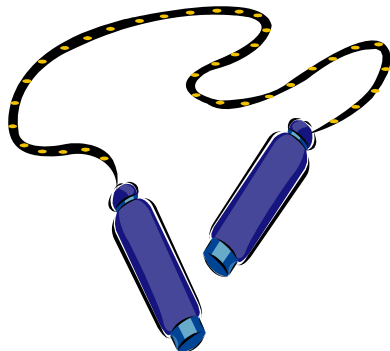
## **Mark Rothstein's** **World of Jump Roping**



On November 8, 2011, Central and Rommelt students will be meeting Mark Rothstein, a National Fitness Hall of Famer. This professional athlete will be teaching our kids about fitness and fun. The PTO is sponsoring his all day visit so that he can work with all of our students, grades K-6, educating them about health and fitness through the art of rope jumping. He will start with a K-6 assembly and then work with individual grade levels

in an age-appropriate hands-on session specific for their grade level.

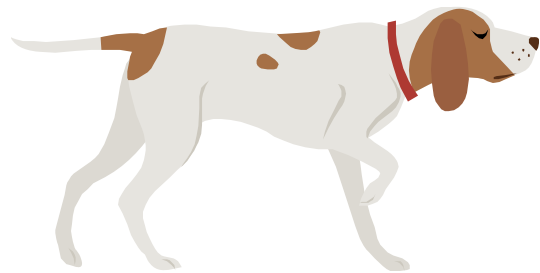
Visit [www.worldofropejumping.com](http://www.worldofropejumping.com) to see what he will be teaching our students and to learn more about Mark and his program.



# CUTEST PET CONTEST

Inspired by their persuasive essays convincing the public to adopt a pet, fifth grade held a Cutest Pet Contest. To have some fun and help pets in need, students brought in containers with pictures of their pets on them. Children voted by placing money in the containers. First place, with the most money, went to Kerin Summerson and her cat, August. Second place was captured by Alyssa Johnson and her dog, Jimmy. Coming in third place was Sophia Bragalone's dog, Claudia. A total of \$450.85 was earned. It was donated to LAPS, which is a no-kill cat shelter in Williamsport, and the SPCA. Thank you to everyone that voted with their money!

In addition to hanging in local vets' offices, the students' persuasive essays will be displayed in animal shelters like the SPCA and LAPS.



## FIFTH GRADE NEWS

### Fifth Grade SOUTH Award

Organization is one key to being a successful student. Arriving to class ready to work, having a tidy desk, producing quality work, using your time wisely, and handing in assignments promptly all improve our productivity. We would like to recognize students that have all of these qualities. Congratulations to Megan Weber, Jackie Wright, Adam Wagner, and Spencer Karasek for earning the fifth grade SOUTH award!



*Spencer Karasek, Megan Weber, Jackie Wright, and Adam Wagner*

## SIXTH GRADE NEWS

### S.O.U.T.H.

#### "M-azing Mounties of the Month"

An "M-azing Mountie" serves as an exceptional role model for the school. It is a student who strives to do his/her best and serves as a leader and role model for peers and younger students. "M-azing Mounties" are organized and prepared for class each day with completed work and a positive attitude to learn. Students who earn this recognition understand and support others. They listen and share ideas and offer praise for a job well done. Respect is earned when students work as a team at Rommelt and encourage classmates to do their best.

It is an honor for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team to present the following students with this special award.

#### October

#### "M-azing Mounties"



Matthew Fioretti



Case Ertel



Alyssa Day



Bryce Brewer



## TITLE 1 NEWS

### Reading Fluently:

There is more to fluency than just reading aloud smoothly. A student who is fluent understands the story or information he's reading. He knows when he needs to slow down or when he should go back to clear up confusion. Try these strategies to build your child's reading skills.



#### Read like a newscaster:

Help your youngster practice reading aloud at a steady, comfortable pace. To see what this sounds like, watch a newscast together. Then, suggest that they pretend to be a TV news anchor. He/she can choose something: a story, a joke, a comic strip to read at the dinner table in their best reporter voice. It adds a little challenge and a little fun to practicing reading fluency.

#### Read like a bike racer:



How is silent reading like racing? The rider speeds along while the road is smooth but slows down for bumps and curves. The same is true when your child reads to himself. Encourage him to go quickly when everything makes sense but to put on the brakes when it doesn't. This is often difficult for children to do. It takes time to slow down and work through words and sometimes it feels easier to simply hit the pot hole and keep on going!

#### Read like a scientist:

Scientists take time to look closely at their data. When your child reads challenging material, they can act like a scientist in search of answers. He might need to spend some extra time on a difficult section or read it several times. Let him know that it's okay to put a paragraph, "under the microscope" and examine difficult words or new concepts until he understands them.







# CAMP SUSQUE

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

2 Picture Re-Take Day

3 PTO Meeting /7:00 pm @ Central

8 ELECTION DAY

“World of Rope Jumping” Assembly

11 Veteran’s Day

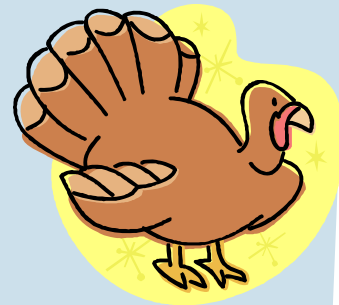
1st Trimester Ends

PTO “Fall Festival” @ High School

18 BOX TOP COLLECTION

21 & 22 ACT 80 Days 11:30 Dismissal  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

23-28 Thanksgiving  
Break



29 **SCHOOL RESUMES**