



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

March 2013

Rommelt Elementary School
Dwight Woodley, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Last-quarter goals

What does your child want to accomplish before the end of the school year? Have her list several goals on a sheet of paper (memorize continents and oceans, finish a series of books). Encourage her to keep the list inside her desk or agenda and to check off each goal as she meets it.

At work

Help your youngster understand why school is important by explaining how you use different subjects at work. You might tell him that you need strong writing skills to send emails in your office, math skills to calculate shipment sizes for your store, or science knowledge to cook in a restaurant or run medical tests in a lab.

Fly a kite

Kite-flying is a fun family activity for a windy March day. Many communities have kite festivals or competitions this time of year. Keep an eye on your local newspaper, or search for events online. Or fly kites in a nearby field. *Idea:* Make your own kite—follow the instructions at kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/activities/crafts/kite-craft.

Worth quoting

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

Francis of Assisi

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What never asks questions but has to be answered?

A: The telephone.



Testing 1-2-3

There’s more to preparing for a test than just studying. Whether your child is taking a classroom test or a standardized exam, you can help him become a better test-taker with these three tips.

1. Learn the lingo. Test questions are easier to read if your youngster is familiar with the words used. *Examples:* describe, characterize, summarize. Together, look over old tests, or find sample tests online. Let him circle words that appear frequently. Can he explain what they mean? Have him look up the ones he’s not sure about.

2. Use strategies. Suggest that your child avoid spending too much time on any particular item. If he can’t answer a question, he can mark it, skip it, and come back to it at the end. It’s also a good idea to cross out unreasonable answers on multiple-choice tests so he has fewer options to consider. If more

than one answer seems possible, he should look closely at those that include “never” or “always.” Those words are often clues to a wrong answer.

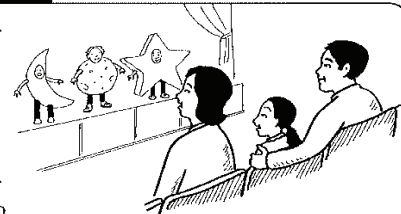
3. Stay relaxed. Feeling good and having a positive attitude can help your youngster do his best. The night before a quiz or test, mention it, but don’t put pressure on him. In the morning, create a calm, pleasant atmosphere, and make sure he eats a balanced breakfast. Also, remind him to take the supplies he needs, such as sharpened pencils with erasers and a calculator (if allowed).♥



Let’s go to school tonight!

Attending evening events at school is a good way for you and your youngster to get more involved. Plus, she’ll be happy to show you the place where she spends her day. Consider these suggestions:

- Spring usually brings talent shows, musicals, and plays. Try to go whether or not your child is in the show. She’ll get to see her friends perform and perhaps be inspired to join in next year.
- Keep an eye out for parent education nights. Special programs on Internet safety or ADHD, for example, can help you with difficult issues.
- Go to a curriculum event. A literacy or math night, science fair, or cultural celebration lets your youngster show you what she is studying in school—and the two of you can learn something new together.♥



Limit screen time

When your child wakes up or gets home from school, is the TV or computer the first thing on her mind? If so, you're not alone. Here are some benefits of limiting her usage, along with strategies for cutting back.

More play time

Your youngster's imagination can get rusty when she spends too much time being entertained by video games and apps. Also, she might avoid favorite activities so she can have screen time. Together, make a list of alternatives (dancing to music, doing jigsaw puzzles,



reading books). If she complains there's "nothing to do," point to the list. *Tip:* Make her bedroom a TV- and computer-free zone so she'll do other things when she's there.

Better social skills

If your child and her friends watch TV or play games on a tablet when they're together, they'll interact less. Consider a ban on

these devices when friends are over. Instead, encourage them to do things that involve talking and sharing, like playing board games or catch. *Tip:* Schedule screen time so that it doesn't interfere with school work. For instance, you might restrict usage on weeknights and allow more on weekends.♥

A picture history

Your youngster probably comes across time lines in social studies textbooks or handouts. Let him make his own picture time line to put important events in order and show the passage of time.



First, have him choose a theme and 5–10 events to go along with it. A time line for "My Family" might have births, weddings, graduations, and vacations. Or "Things I Have Learned" could include reading, swimming, riding a two-wheeler, and multiplication.

Help your child find a photo of each milestone, or he could draw pictures to represent the events. Then, he can glue each photo or drawing on a sheet of paper, add the date, and write a brief description.

To display his time line, have him stretch a length of ribbon or yarn across his bedroom wall and secure both ends with tape or push pins. Let him use clothespins or paper clips to attach the pictures in order. *Idea:* Leave his time line up so he can add new events as they occur.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Q & A

When your child is bullied

Q: My son told me he doesn't want to go to school because kids bully him for being the shortest kid in his class. What should I do?

A: Start by calling or emailing his teacher. Most bullying takes place when adults aren't looking, so she might not be aware of the situation. And she will want to know so that she can help.

In the meantime, talk to your son about bullying "hot spots," or places where bullies tend to strike (back of the bus, playground, cafeteria, hall, restroom). He should try to stay with friends or adults in those areas.

Also, let him know that while he may be short, he has other things going for him. For instance, maybe he can do math in his head, or perhaps he's a good pitcher. And no matter what, it's not okay for kids to make fun of him. Go over ways he can respond to bullies. It's best to say as little as possible—he can simply shrug or say, "Whatever," and walk away.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Write like Dr. Seuss

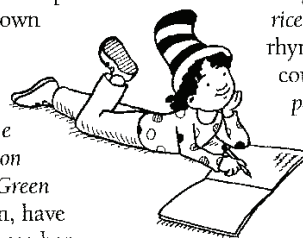
Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2, and students across America celebrate by reading his books. Your youngster can take the celebration a step further by writing her own Seuss-style story.

Start by reading several Dr. Seuss books like *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, and *Green Eggs and Ham*. Then, have her choose one to base her

story on. For example, she could decide to write *Blue Beans and Rice*.

Next, ask your child to brainstorm a list of rhyming words and phrases to use. She might write words that rhyme with *rice* (*nice, twice, mice*) and pairs of rhyming phrases that tell where she could eat blue beans and rice (*at the park, in the dark*).

Finally, she can use the rhymes to write her story. When she's finished, let her read it aloud as a bedtime story for your entire family!♥



FIFTH GRADE NEWS

HONOR

If honor is one of your traits, you value honesty, display humility, accept consequences, and demonstrate pride in your behavior and work. The fifth grade staff feels honored to be working with these wonderful students and would like to present them with the February SOUTH award. Congratulations to Lauren Peck, Haley Neidig, Andrea Fox, and Courtney Dodge! We know that you will accept this award with humility!



Andrea Fox, Lauren Peck, Haley Neidig, and Courtney Dodge

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 6th grade team to present the following students with this special award .

FEBRUARY



Adam Wagner



Novalee Leonard



Jackie Wright



Ben Reid



Natalya Steppe

Study Skills and Test Taking Tips...



As students at Rommelt prepare to become 6th and 7th graders it's important to develop positive study habits now. Here are some tips that may be helpful for your learner as they prepare for assessments and for content review in the higher grade levels.

- ✓ It is best to review the material right after class when it's still fresh in your memory.
- ✓ Don't try to do all your studying the night before the test. Instead space out your studying, review class materials at least several times a week, focusing on one topic at a time.
- ✓ Have all of your study material in front of you: notes, textbooks, study guides and any other relevant material.
- ✓ Find a comfortable and quiet place to study with good lighting and little distractions (try avoiding your own bed; it is very tempting to just lie down and take a nap).
- ✓ Start out by studying the most important information. Learn the general concepts first, don't worry about learning the details until you have learned the main ideas.
- ✓ Take notes and write down a summary of the important ideas as you read through your study material.
- ✓ Test yourself or have someone test you on the material to find out what your weak and strong areas are. You can use the review questions at the end of each chapter, practice tests that the teacher may give out or other review materials.
- ✓ Don't study later than the time you usually go to sleep, you may fall asleep or be tempted to go to sleep, instead try studying in the afternoon or early evening. If you are a morning person try studying in the morning.



CALENDAR FOR MARCH



- 1st **Second Trimester Ends**
- 4th **Third Trimester Begins**
- 5th **Weather “Tornado Drill”**
- 7th **PTO at Central/7:00 pm**
- 8th **Report Cards Sent Home**
- 10th **Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- 12th **Grade 5 PSSA Writing Test**
- 13th **Grade 5 PSSA Writing Test**
- 14th **Grade 5 PSSA Writing Test**
- 15th **Grade 5 PSSA Writing Test**
- 17th **St. Patrick’s Day**
- 20th **First Day of Spring**
- 22nd **Box Top Collection**
- 28th—April 2nd **SPRING BREAK**
- 31st **EASTER**



Weather Make-Up Dates...

If school is closed due to inclement weather the following days will be used as make-up days.

- 1st **Thursday, March 28th /Weather**
- 2nd **Tuesday, April 2nd/Weather**
- 3rd **Monday, April 1st/Weather**