



Rommelt News

October 2014

South Williamsport Area
School District

Thoughts From Mr. Woodley, Principal (5-6)

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Rommelt Teachers

- Mr. Brown
- Ms. Cooke
- Mrs. Cruz
- Mrs. Flerlage
- Mrs. Hunter
- Mrs. Neely
- Mrs. Ogden
- Mrs. McGlensey
- Mr. Pearson
- Mrs. Puller
- Mrs. Sahn
- Mrs. Zielewicz

Dear Parents:

Fall has arrived! Mother Nature will not let us forget as we juggle the up and down changing temperatures that fall brings with it. Pretty soon we begin to see the beautiful colors of the changing leaves and the breathtaking views the Susquehanna Valley provides in the fall.

The start of the school year has been pretty smooth. I would like to thank my staff, the students and you the parents for a great start this year.

One of the biggest challenges we face in the 5th and 6th grade years is incomplete or unfinished homework assignments. Most students have some homework each night. If you are noticing your child is missing homework, please check their agenda book to make sure they are writing their assignments down. The best way to help your child is to check their agenda book each night, ask to see their homework, and review it with them. Missed homework assignments will result in lower grades on their report card.

I would also like to encourage parents to set up their online access to PowerSchool. This is a great way to check and keep track of how your child is doing in school. The PowerSchool Parent Portal allows you to view your child's grades and attendance at any time. You can also have the system email you updates daily or weekly. If you are noticing your child is struggling academically, please call your child's homeroom teacher and discuss the concerns. We currently only have about 75% of our Rommelt parents set up with an account, and we would love to get that number to 100%. If you have not set-up your PowerSchool account, please call the Rommelt Office so we can help you get your account set-up.

Finally, the PTO Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 24th in the high school gym from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. This is a great evening of fun entertainment for the whole community. I would like to encourage everyone to help donate an hour or so during the Fall festival. It is also a great opportunity to spend a fun-filled family evening together enjoying dinner and some games. We hope you will join us for the PTO Fall Festival.

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

September 2014

Rommelt Elementary School
Dwight Woodley, Principal



SHORT NOTES

Car kit

Make the most of the time your youngster spends in the car by helping her put together a learning kit. Use a plastic storage bin or reusable grocery bag, and include books, paper, pencils, a ruler, and crayons. That way, your child can read, write, and draw when you're on the go.

Let's laugh

Laughter relieves stress, so try to fit in humor on even the busiest days. Show your youngster a funny photo you saw, tell him something hilarious that happened at work, post a comic strip on the refrigerator, or read a joke you enjoyed. Encourage him to share humor with you, too.

Handbook review

Your child's school handbook contains a lot of important information. Look through it together—you'll both be familiar with policies about attendance, grades, clothing, and more. Then, keep it in a handy spot, and refer to it if you have a question.

Worth quoting

"Having fun isn't hard when you've got a library card!"
Arthur the Aardvark

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What goes through towns, up and down hills, and around corners, but doesn't move?

A: A road.



Back-to-school routines

A good day at school begins and ends with a pleasant routine at home. Try these ideas for establishing good habits with your child.

A fresh start

A calm morning can help your youngster go to school with a positive attitude. Build an extra 10 minutes into his wake-up time so he won't be rushed if he spills food on his shirt or misplaces his glasses. Also, let him think of tasks he could do the night before, such as showering or putting his musical instrument by the front door.



Backpack check

Use your child's backpack to spark conversations about school. Sit together while he goes through it, and talk about what's inside. If he shows you his report on elephants, you might say, "I didn't know they could eat 300 pounds of food in a day!" or "What was the most interesting thing you learned about elephants?"

Screen-time limits

Large doses of TV, video games, and apps can distract your youngster from his "job": being a student. Encourage him to spend free time playing outside with friends or reading for pleasure. *Note:* Experts recommend no more than two hours of screen time per day (and many parents limit it further).♥

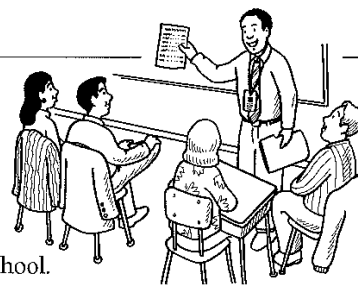
Communication counts

Your youngster's teacher wants to hear from you! Here's how to open the lines of communication.

● **Attend events.** Back-to-school night is a great starting place for getting to know the teacher. Introduce yourself, and tell him something your child especially likes about school.

● **Be a team player.** You and the teacher have the same goal: for your youngster to succeed. If he shares a concern about her progress or behavior, ask how you can help. At home, make nice comments about the teacher.

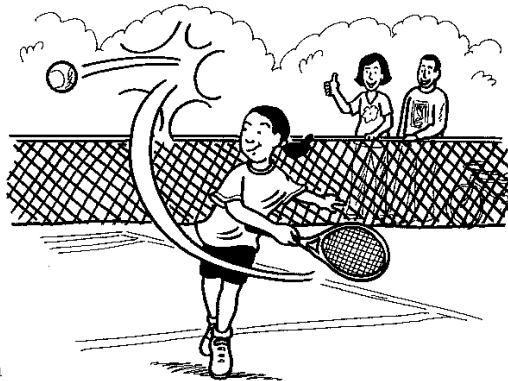
● **Stay in touch.** Tell the teacher about any changes in your child's life, such as the birth of a sibling or a separation or divorce.♥



The power of grit

What is *grit*? The dictionary defines it as “mental toughness and courage.” Grit comes in handy when your youngster needs to do something that’s difficult for her. Consider the following advice for helping her develop this important trait.

Learn from struggles. Is your child having a hard time learning the times tables or serving a tennis ball? Remind her of a past struggle that she overcame. Maybe she fell while learning to ride a bike or needed speech therapy to pronounce her Rs. Explain that she

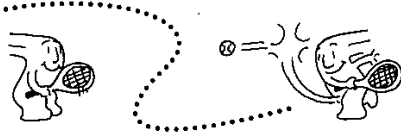


was successful because she kept trying, and the same can happen here.

Reach for courage.

Tell your youngster that everyone has courage—it’s just a matter of finding it! When she is anxious about something (class presentation, science test), ask her to name a person she considers brave. For example, per-

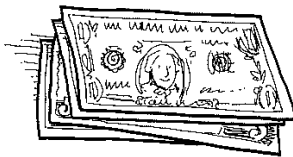
haps she thinks her aunt has courage because she’s a police officer. Then, point out that even she probably feels nervous at work sometimes.♥



Talking about money

Q: How can we teach our son to be responsible with money?

A: One way is just to start talking to your son about money. Try making financial decisions out loud so he can learn from you how to spend wisely. You could say, “I want new curtains, but our car tires need to be replaced soon, so we have to save money for those instead.”



Also, have him practice making his own choices about money. If he gets gift money or an allowance, encourage him to think through spending decisions like you did. “These trading cards look cool, but I’m going to keep saving for that Lego kit.” Let him know he’s doing a good job when he avoids an impulse buy and plans responsibly.♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

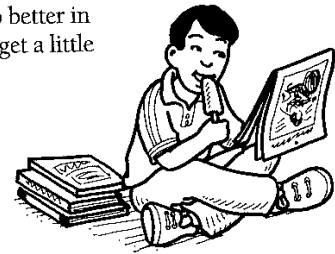
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ACTIVITY CORNER

Calendar-inspired reading

Strong readers tend to do better in all subjects. With these activities, your child will get a little extra reading practice on a regular basis:

- September is National Blueberry Popsicle Month! Encourage your youngster to find unusual day, week, or month celebrations in library books or online—he’ll be reading nonfiction and doing research. He might also look up birthdays of famous people, like his favorite authors and athletes, and add those special days to your calendar, too.
- Take turns writing a question or challenge of the week on Sunday’s calendar square. *Example:* “A baby llama is a *cria*. Find other names for different baby animals.” Throughout the week, family members can read books, magazines, or websites to find answers and share what they discover.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Fun ways to strengthen bonds

Once school starts, our family doesn’t get to hang out together as much as we do over the summer. This year, we decided to make a list of activities we could do in 15 minutes or less, and our goal is to do one every day.

Our kids had fun thinking of ideas. For example, our daughter wrote, “Take silly family photos,” and our son said, “Have a limbo contest.”



Other suggestions included looking for constellations, playing hopscotch, and making s’mores.

We posted the list on our bulletin board, and now we take turns picking one activity every day. It’s motivating us to make time for each other. And we are constantly adding to the list, so I don’t think we’ll run out of new things to do anytime soon!♥

S.O.U.T.H. AWARD

S.O.U.T.H. Students of the Month serve as exceptional role models at Rommelt Elementary School. They are students who ***strive*** to do their best and serve as leaders and role models for peers and younger students. They are ***organized*** and prepared for class each day with completed work and positive attitudes 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 5th and 6th grade teams to present the following students with this special award.

Port Habalar, Landon Lorson, Claire Alexander, and Livi Noltee



ART NEWS

The fifth grade Fazzino project was a great success. All the students participated in designing and coloring South Williamsport's banner and at the end of the school year it was taken over to Penn College's Gallery for display with other school's projects. On August 16, Charles Fazzino returned to South Williamsport to present his artwork to the Little League community. Prior to Saturday night's game, Charles threw out the first pitch and the students who worked on the Fazzino piece were introduced to the crowd. Mrs. Troutman-Myers, Ella Livorno and Laura Weinoffer were able to attend the event.



Lycoming County Fair News

Fifteen students from Rommelt Elementary participated in the annual Lycoming County Fair.

Former sixth graders Kelsey DeRemer, Lauren Ogden, Jimmy Brokaw- Stealey, Mason Shatzer and Eileen Shaffer placed first. The two dimensional projects will be framed and displayed on the first floor walls at Rommelt. Abby Kimble, Eileen Shaffer, Rylee Monoski and Lauren Peck placed second and Jamie Caroway and Nash Stahl placed third.

Once again, our students excelled in the arts!

World Renowned Author to Visit South

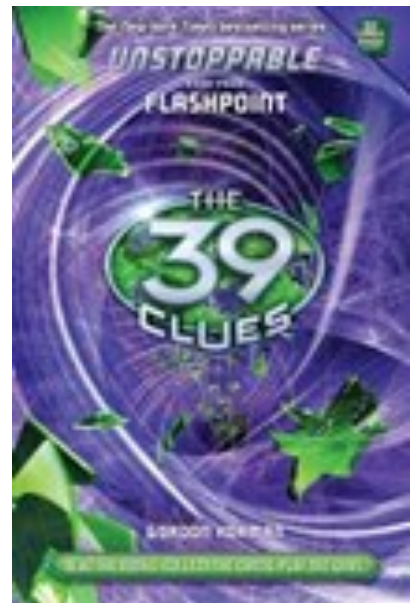


Gordon Korman is coming to visit SWASD! This award-winning author has written more than 80 books for all ages. He started his writing career as a 7th grader and was first published as a freshman in high school. He's been writing ever since and has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide!

He will be visiting our elementary students on 11/19 and then the HS on 11/20. He will share his writing experiences and highlight some of his more popular books with our students. He will even do a book signing for his audiences. This visit is being funded by a grant from the First Community Foundation Partnership of PA through EITC donations received from FTS International Services LLC, Jersey Shore State Bank, and Woodlands Bank.

We are all excited for this great opportunity to meet a famous author and hear about his professional proficiencies. I believe many students will be inspired by his visit and this will truly enhance their educational experience. For more information about Gordon Korman, visit his website at www.gordonkorman.com!

Manny Tsikitas



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Summer is the time for sun, fun, and vacation destinations. However, there were many Rommelt students who stepped up and added summer reading into the mix. The following students took on the challenge to read 600 minutes while enjoying their time off. Each student received a Reading MVP certificate and a plastic Mountie Cup.



Thank you to the PTO for funding our summer prizes and to you, the parents, for helping your student beat the summer slide and begin the school year with a successful foot forward!

Congratulations to the following:

5 th Grade:	6 th Grade:
Ross Flerlage Noah Tsikitas Lane Lusk Elise McBride Emma Mitcheltree Averie Shaffer Casey Kimble Claire Alexander Ryan Branton Jayda Miller	Julissa Smith Alayna McGovern Liviya Noltee Evan Laudenslager Kate Heckrote Payton Cooley Paige Kistner Elizabeth Manning Nevaeh Danley Savannah McGill Olivia Bennett Zachary Hanisek Jayden Loner

Attention SWASD Parents:

Parents Right to Know - NCLB

The federal law requires that the South Williamsport Area School District notify parents, of all children in Title I schools, of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. If you would like to request this information, please contact the district office in the Rommelt Building at 570-327-1581.



- October 2 PTO Meeting at Central / 7:00
- 6—10 Kickball Tournament
- 10 Mid-Marking Report Sent Home
- 13 NO SCHOOL/Columbus Day
- 14 Dental Hygienist lessons/Grade 5
- 17 Dental Hygienist lessons/Grade 6
- 20 PTO Fund-Raiser begins
- 21 Title 1 Parent Night at Central /5:30
- 24 PTO Fall Festival
at the High School from 5:00-8:00
Box Top Collection
- 31 HALLOWEEN

