



Rommelt News

November 2014

South Williamsport Area
School District

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

The month of November has come upon us very quickly, and it brings us to our 1st round of Parent/Teacher Conferences. The conferences have been scheduled for Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th. Please check the times the teachers have set-up for you. The conferences are a time for parents to meet face-to-face with their child's homeroom teacher to discuss his/her educational progress. I would like to take this opportunity 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 he 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 their teacher. Involving your child gives them ownership and importance in the process, and 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.

World Renowned Author to Visit South

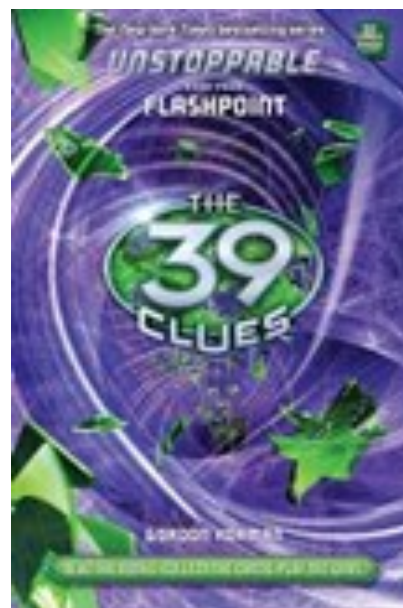


Gordon Korman is coming to visit SWASD! This award-winning author has written more than 80 books for all ages. He started his writing career as a 7th grader and was first published as a freshman in high school. He's been writing ever since and has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide!

Mr. Korman 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!

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Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

November 2014

Rommelt Elementary School
Dwight Woodley, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Coding for kids

Your child isn't too young to learn about simple computer programming. In fact, coding games, apps, and classes can help her develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills—and she may discover her future career! Try a free mobile app like Kodable or Tynker, or a website such as Scratch or Mozilla Thimble.

Let's cook together

When you're making holiday meals, ask your youngster to help you. You'll spend time together, and he'll feel proud of his contributions (tearing lettuce for a salad, peeling potatoes to mash). *Bonus:* Following recipes, measuring ingredients, and seeing chemistry in action build skills that will help your child succeed in school.

Be honest

Does your youngster know that honesty is a habit? If you see her being dishonest (say, you overhear her telling a friend she's sick to get out of plans they made), explain that people may hesitate to trust her in the future when they find out the truth. *Tip:* Set an example of telling the truth yourself—she is likely to follow your lead.

Worth quoting

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." *Fred Rogers*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: How do porcupines play leapfrog?

A: Very carefully!



Our family's rules

Personalized, positive, and consistent—these are characteristics of rules that children tend to stick to. Consider these suggestions for creating rules that make sense for your family.

Decide what matters

Let your youngster know that your rules might not be the same as his friends' rules. For instance, some families eat only in the kitchen, while others allow food elsewhere in the house. It's easier for kids to remember a few simple rules instead of a long list, so pick ones that you really care about.

Involve your child

Try this: Sit down together with poster board, pencils, and crayons, and talk about what's important in your house (for instance, treating each other nicely or cleaning up after yourselves). Have your youngster write each rule in his own words and illustrate it. Encourage him to write rules that sound positive ("Knock before entering a room") rather



than negative ("Don't open a door without knocking").

Follow through

Enforcing rules consistently is a key to success. If you allow snacks in the living room "just this once," your child may ignore the food rule in the future. Also, let him know what the consequences are for breaking rules. Be sure to relate the consequence to the rule so he understands the connection (*example:* writing a note of apology after speaking unkindly).♥

Learning is for everyone

To raise a curious, thoughtful youngster, show her that learning doesn't end when you grow up. Here's how.

● **Share your discoveries.** You've probably asked your child after school, "What did you learn today?" Why not tell her what you've learned, too? You could take turns around the dinner table sharing one thing you know now that you didn't know when you woke up.

● **Ask questions.** Have you ever wondered why geese fly in a V formation or whether an avocado is a fruit or a vegetable? Try asking your youngster. If she doesn't know either, look it up in a library book or online. She'll see that you want to learn new things—even though you're an adult!♥



Fall for math

Whether your youngster is collecting autumn leaves or eating freshly picked apples, you can add in math practice.

Leaf arithmetic. Take turns rolling two dice on the sidewalk. On each turn, add the numbers together, and collect that many leaves from the ground. For example, if you roll a 3 and a 5, gather 8 leaves. Keep a running tally, and the first player to collect 25 leaves wins. *Variation:* Older kids could multiply the numbers on the dice.



Apple fractions. Colorful apples are a tasty way to explore fractions. Slice a red apple in half, a yellow one in quarters, and a green one in eighths. Then, ask your child to put $\frac{1}{2}$ of each apple on a plate. How many slices of each color will equal $\frac{1}{2}$? She'll learn that 2 yellow quarters (2 out of 4 slices, or $\frac{2}{4}$) and 4 green eighths (4 out of 8 slices, or $\frac{4}{8}$) are the same as 1 red half—because $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{8}$ are equivalent fractions. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

DIY art supplies

Spark your child's creativity by letting him make his own art supplies. Try these two ideas.

1. Puffy paints

Your youngster can use custom-colored paints to create 3-D art. For each color, he should mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup shaving cream and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup glue. Have him add food coloring until he gets the exact shade he wants and stir until stiff peaks form. Then, give him a paintbrush and construction paper to create his masterpieces.



2. Scented play dough

Use different flavors of powdered drink mix to whip up clay that smells yummy. In a saucepan, your child should combine 1 packet drink mix plus 1 cup flour, 1 cup water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, 1 tbsp. vegetable oil, and 2 tsp. cream of tartar. Stir it over low heat until it's the consistency of play dough. When it cools, he'll be able to mold the dough into sculptures. ♥

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

Parent-teacher conferences: What to ask

Q: I want to prepare for my upcoming parent-teacher conference. What questions should I ask about my son?

A: It's good that you'd like to plan ahead. You'll want to find out how your son is doing academically as well as socially, so you might ask questions like "Does he usually finish assignments on time?" or "Does he get along with the other kids?" You could also ask what you can do at home to help him.

Another idea is to find out what your child would like you to bring up during the conference. He may wonder how he could improve his language arts grade or when the class is going to learn about the Middle Ages.

Tip: If your youngster has an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), ask how he is progressing toward his goals and whether he's using his accommodations. ♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Turning off cell phones

Like most people I know, I tended to pull out my phone frequently to check email, text friends, or look at Facebook. One day, my daughter Kate surprised me by complaining that I was "always" on my phone.

I realized that she was right and that my phone was distracting me from conversations with Kate and the rest of my family. Not only was this impolite, but it kept

me from really hearing things they said to me. Plus, it occurred to me that when Kate gets a phone, I won't want her on it all the time.

Now I'm more aware of my phone use. I make sure to leave it in my pocket when we're out and to check it only occasionally at home. I'm hoping Kate now sees that she's much more important than my phone, which is, of course the truth! ♥



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.

Lilly Storms



Claudia Green



Ben Ballowe



Quaid Molino



KICKBALL TOURNAMENT 2014-2015 CHAMPIONS

During the week of October 6th through October 10th, all of the 5th and 6th graders participated in a round robin kickball tournament where each team played every team once from their own grade. The teams with the best records won the tournament. Congratulations to 6th grade Mrs. McGlensey's class and 5th grade Mrs. Hunter's class for being this year's CHAMPIONS!

The champions played each other on October 9th and Mrs. McGlensey's 6th graders won! On Friday, October 10th, Mrs. MGlensey's class played the faculty. What a terrific game it was! The teachers won a lot to a little.

SIXTH GRADE
WINNING TEAM
Mrs. McGlensey's
Homerom



FIFTH GRADE
WINNING TEAM
Mrs. Hunter's
Homerom



- 3 Assembly at High School/10:00
- 4 ELECTION DAY
- 6 PTO Meeting at Central / 7:00
- 11 VETERANS DAY
- 14 First Trimester Ends
- 15 Second Trimester Begins
- 17–21 American Education Week
- 19 Visiting Author Day
- 21 Box Top Collection
- 24 Act 80 Day /Dismissal at 12:30
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 25 Act 80 Day /Dismissal at 12:30
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 26–12/1 NO SCHOOL
- 27 Thanksgiving

December 2

SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION

CHRISTMAS BREAK—

December 22nd through January 4th

