



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

March 2015



Rommelt Elementary School
Dwight Woodley, Principal

SHORT NOTES

That's a record!

Suggest that your youngster start a notebook of personal records to keep track of her accomplishments. For instance, maybe she did five pull-ups in PE or got 100 on her spelling test two weeks in a row. Challenge her to beat her own records, and she'll learn to set and work toward goals.

Backpack safety

To avoid straining his back, encourage your child to bend his knees (not his waist) when he picks up his backpack. Also, the weight of his backpack should be less than 15 percent of his body weight. *Hint:* Have him pack items so the weight is evenly distributed.

Celebrate spring

Spring begins March 20. As a family, plan a mini celebration to ring in the new season. Your youngster could make invitations ("Meet in the living room on Friday after dinner") and check out library books of spring crafts to do together. You might bake cookies or cupcakes that family members can decorate with flowers or raindrops.

Worth quoting

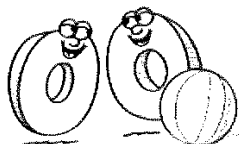
"Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be a very silent place if no birds sang except the best."
Henry van Dyke

JUST FOR FUN

Tyler: I can tell you the score of tonight's big game before it starts.

Dad: Really? What is it?

Tyler: Zero to zero!



Respect at home, respect at school

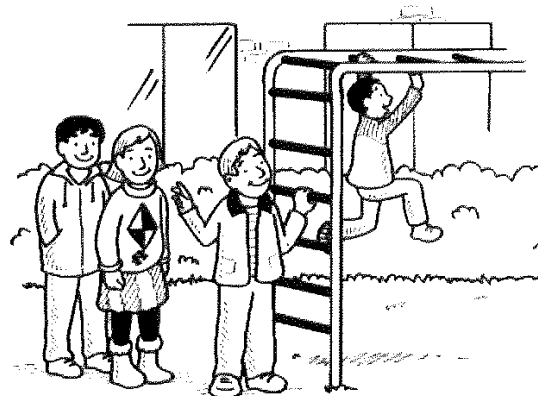
A child who treats people with respect at home is more likely to be respectful in school. These tips can help your youngster learn what respect is and inspire him to show it.

Define

Explain that respect includes valuing others' needs and wishes, showing consideration for people, being tolerant of differences, and using good manners. Then, have your youngster write his own recipe for respect. *Example:* "Mix together $\frac{1}{4}$ cup caring, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup good manners, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup self-control, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup tolerance. Makes as many servings as you need—and stays good forever!"

Spot

"I spy... respect." Together, look and listen for people showing respect. Your child may notice students listening quietly as the media specialist reads a book or classmates speaking politely to each other. Have him name someone he respects at



school, like a teacher or classmate—why does he respect that person? Also, as he reads or watches movies, he could be on the lookout for characters he thinks are worthy of respect.

Show

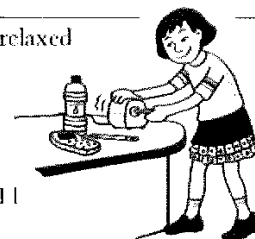
Can your youngster think of instances where he was or wasn't respectful this week? Encourage him to come up with three ways he will behave respectfully at home and at school next week. For example, he could ask his sister before touching her guitar or wait patiently for smaller kids who need more time to cross the playground monkey bars.♥

Test-week success

How can you help your youngster stay focused yet relaxed during standardized test week? Share these strategies:

● Suggest that she pack a "test kit" the night before each day of testing. She should put in everything that she'll need, such as sharpened pencils, a calculator, a water bottle, and a snack. *Tip:* Make sure she gets 10–11 hours of sleep so she'll be alert.

● Let your child plan enjoyable activities for after school. She may not have homework during test week, so she could use that time to unwind by playing board games, reading comic books, or visiting a park.♥



When I grow up...

Help your youngster see the connection between what she's learning in school and the future career she dreams of with these ideas.

Think about jobs. How could your child use reading, math, or science in a future career? Ask her to name a job she might enjoy and match it with a skill she learned in class. For example, reading with expression will come in handy if she becomes a TV news anchor



someday. Or if she'd like to be a fashion designer, the measurement unit she's doing in math can help her measure fabric correctly.

Talk to workers. Let your youngster interview people about their jobs. Maybe your neighbor is an electrician or your sister is an orthopedist. Encourage her to ask how they use school subjects at work.

She may discover that electricians read manuals and diagrams and that orthopedists need science to understand patients' bones and to diagnose and treat injuries.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Put salad on the map

What does your child's dinner salad have to do with geography? Make one together, and he can find out.

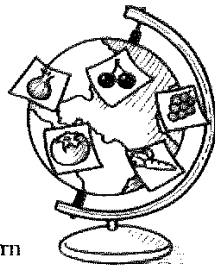
1. Ask your youngster to write a shopping list for salad ingredients.

2. At the grocery store, have him read stickers to learn where each ingredient comes from (tomatoes from Mexico, cucumbers from California). Can he find anything grown in your area?

3. At home, encourage him to look at a world map and locate the state or country where each ingredient was grown. He could sketch each food on a sticky note and place it where it belongs on a globe, an atlas, or a map.

4. Let your child help you wash the vegetables, slice them, and toss with his favorite dressing. Now it's time to eat!

Idea: Next time, let him make and map a fruit salad.♥



Q & A

Keeping track of papers

Q: My son's room is a mess—which wasn't a big problem until he started losing schoolwork and getting frustrated when he couldn't find things. How can I help?

A: The good news is that even if your son's room is cluttered, he won't lose papers if he keeps them in his backpack.

He should take homework assignments out of his bag when he's ready to work on them and put them right back in after he's finished. If he has a graded test or a permission slip for you to sign, have him hand it directly to you instead of putting it in a pile where it may get overlooked.

You could also help your son develop a system for organizing work that he needs to keep. He might use stacked plastic trays or file folders—one for each subject.

Once he sees how much easier it is to find papers, he just may be ready to tackle the rest of his room so it's organized, too!♥



A co-parenting team

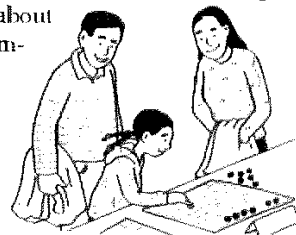
If you're divorced, you may worry about how the situation will affect your child's schoolwork. Youngsters tend to adjust better if they see their parents working as a team, so try these suggestions for building a good co-parenting relationship:

● Find a way to communicate about your child's schooling. For example, some parents feel email works best. *Tip:* Mention your conversations to your youngster. ("I told your dad about your citizenship award. We're both proud of you!")

● Attend school events. Your child will probably want to hang out with both of you during a math night or an art fair. Focus on her, and avoid bringing up difficult subjects (finances, custody).

● Be sure to both look over report cards and other important papers that come

home. You might make a copy for the other parent or ask if the school will send home duplicates. Try to agree on a plan for handling grades.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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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.



Elizabeth Manning



Caleb Snyder



Paige Kistner



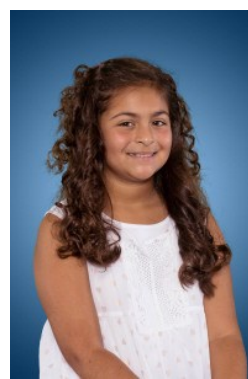
Trent Hampton



Olivia Casella



Logan Ogden



Laila Shams

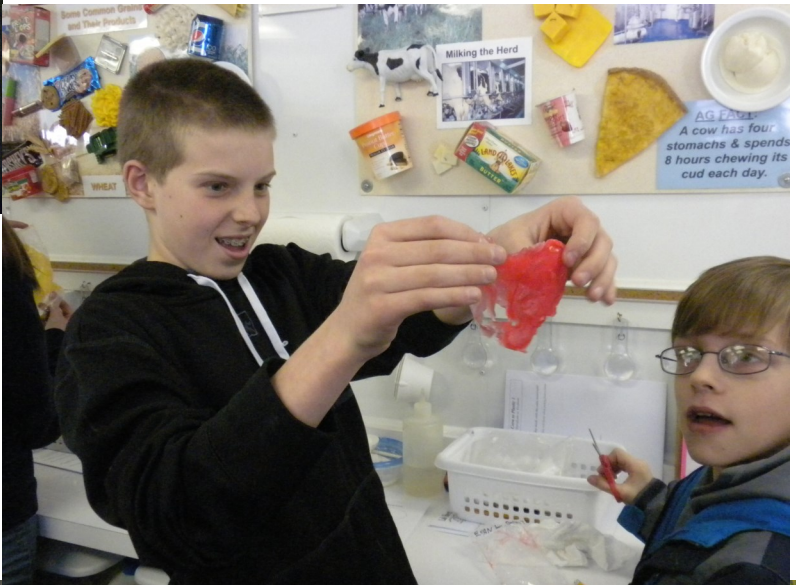
SCIENCE IN A TRUCK

During the week of February 9th, the Mobile Ag Science Lab was parked outside Central Elementary School. It was a successful activity that enriched the education of all of our students at Central and Rommelt. This program was a huge success and truly benefited our elementary students. All classes K-6 and Mrs. Fisher's Life Skills students with Mrs. Lambert's IU students had an opportunity to enter the lab and participate in a science experiment chosen by their teachers. That is approximately 700 students and 25 teachers and various support staff and parent volunteers that had a chance to experience a hands-on science activity outside of my classroom.

Each grade level participated in age specific science experiments from the Ag Lab's extensive curriculum choices. I collaborated with their staff to create a schedule to accommodate all of our classes. We were also given materials to help prepare the students for their experiments and the teachers conducted some of those activities prior to the lab's arrival. Teachers accompanied their classes to the lab and participated in post lab surveys that showed how pleased they were for the experience. The experiments included "Glue from Milk," "Farm Charm," "Tree Story," and "Corn to Plastic" which allowed students to explore the environmental impact of 2 packing foams and gave the students a chance to make their own plastic from petroleum.

The Ag Lab gave us an opportunity to explore science in a creative and fun way. Many of the students enjoyed learning about the science concepts related to our state's #1 industry. The teachers also completed a survey to comment on their experiences with the lab which showed how impressed they were to see their students learning science in an interactive and interesting way. This experience was very beneficial to all who participated and I believe it was a successful project. Thanks to the First Community Foundation Partnership of PA for funding this program with donations received from FTS International Services LLC, Jersey Shore State Bank, and Woodlands Bank. Thanks also to the generosity of the PA Soybean Board for helping to finance this project. It was well worth it!

Manny Tsikitas



AG SCIENCE LAB



MARCH

- 2 Third Trimester Begins
Dr. Seuss Birthday/Read Across America
- 3 Gr 5 IRC team to Williamsport Home
- 5 Gr 6 IRC team to Williamsport Home
PTO Meeting at Central/7:00 pm
- 6 Report Cards Sent Home
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 26, 27, & 28 "Sound of Music" at the
High School /7:00 pm
- 27 Box Top Collection



"MARK YOUR CALENDAR"

- 04/02/15 NO SCHOOL/4th weather make-up day if needed
- 04/03/15 NO SCHOOL/Good Friday
- 04/06/15 NO SCHOOL/6th weather make-up day if needed
- 04/07/15 NO SCHOOL/5th weather make-up day if needed