



Rommelt News

November 2012

South Williamsport Area
School District

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

Inside this issue:

Home & School Connection	3,4
Grade 5 News	5,6
Grade 6 News	7
Title 1 News	8
Phys. Ed. News	9
Calendar	10

Rommelt Teachers

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

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 19th and Tuesday, November 20th. 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 school-work, 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 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.

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

November 2012

Rommelt Elementary School
Dwight Woodley, Principal

SHORT NOTES



Vocabulary builder

A key ring and some index cards can help your youngster practice vocabulary words. Suggest that she write words on the fronts of index cards and definitions on the backs. She can hole-punch the cards and slide them onto a key ring. It's a portable study tool that she can use anywhere she goes!

Talking about drugs

When your child takes medicine, use the opportunity to bring up drug safety. Together, read the directions carefully. Then, explain that prescriptions can be harmful if taken by someone else or if you don't follow the instructions. You might also let him know there are drug-free ways to feel better, such as using ice for an injury.

Left or right?

Does your youngster sometimes mix up left and right? This trick can help. Tell her to make an L with each hand using her thumbs and forefingers. The L on the left is correct, and the one on the right is backward. To figure out left and right, she can make Ls and remember that left starts with L.

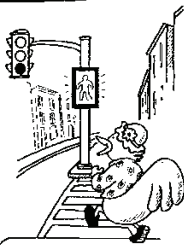
Worth quoting

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
Dr. Seuss

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?

A: Because the light turned green.



Becoming more responsible

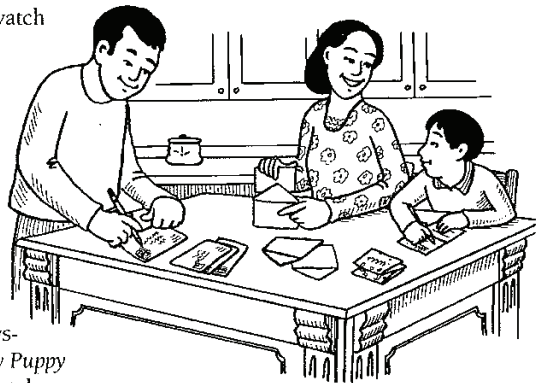
It's a wonderful feeling to watch with pride as your child takes responsibility for himself. But how do you get to that point? Consider these suggestions.

Read stories

When you read together, have your youngster point out characters' responsible behavior. For instance, in *The Paperboy* by Dav Pilkey, a boy has a job delivering newspapers. And in *Just Me and My Puppy* by Mercer Mayer, Little Critter takes care of his dog. After you read, ask your child to think about ways he is responsible—and about new responsibilities he might be ready for.

Make a magnetic chart

Have your youngster divide a sheet of paper into three columns. In the first one, he can list his responsibilities, including personal tasks (brush teeth, do homework) and household chores (make bed, set table). The other two columns should be labeled "To do" and "Done." Let him post the chart on the refrigerator and put magnets in the "To do" column. As he



finishes each task, he can move the magnet to "Done." At bedtime, his completed chart will show how responsible he was.

Share household jobs

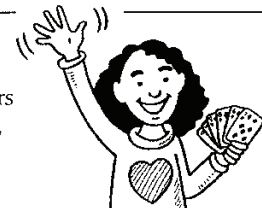
Do a family chore or project together. This will teach your child that people depend on each other to be responsible. For instance, you could mail party invitations, pack lunches, or wash the car. Each family member picks a step: fill out invitations, write addresses, or stamp, stuff, and seal envelopes. If everyone is responsible, you'll get the job done quickly! ♥

Math games

All you need are dice and playing cards for these games that will build your child's math skills.

Guess my roll. Toss two dice without letting others see. Then, use addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division to give clues about your numbers (4, 5).
Example: "If you divide my total by 3, you get 3."
The first person to name the numbers rolls next.

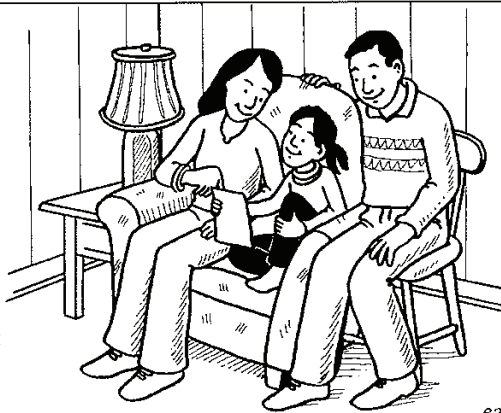
Add to 50. Who can collect playing cards that come closest to 50—without going over? Remove face cards, deal two cards to each player, and stack the rest. Take turns drawing one card and secretly adding your numbers (ace = 1). Stop drawing when you have 50 or think the next card will put you over. When everyone is finished, announce your totals. *Variation:* For a younger child, play to 20. ♥



My report card

How is your youngster doing in school this year? Her report card can give you valuable information about her progress. Try these steps for reviewing it with her.

1. Think first. If you get the report card at a parent-teacher conference, ask for advice about discussing it at home. If your youngster brings the report card home, ask how she feels about it before sharing your thoughts.



2. Start with the positive. Perhaps your child brought up her spelling grade from last year, or maybe she got good citizenship marks. Mentioning something like this sets a pleasant tone for your report card discussion.

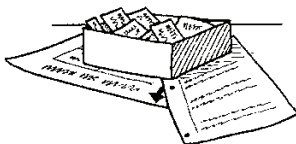
3. Focus on effort. Try to make comments like “All of that studying really paid off!” (instead of “You’re so good at science!”). This lets her know she earned the grade by working hard and can inspire her to try hard next grading period.

4. Finish with a plan. Talk about any grades that are lower than expected, and brainstorm ways she can bring them up. Share her teacher’s advice from your conference, too. ♥

Q & A Coping with worries

Q: My son spends a lot of time worrying. He is always asking questions like “What if I fail my test?” or “What if we have a fire?” How can I help him feel less anxious?

A: Talk through worries with your child. Then, come up with a plan to help him feel more in control. When he is nervous about a test, offer to quiz him the night before. If he is anxious about fires, make a family emergency plan together. He could draw a fire escape map and organize a household fire drill, for example.



You might also have your son make a “worry journal” or a “worry box.” He can write down his concerns in a notebook or jot them on slips of paper and keep them in a box under his bed. Simply putting them into words can help him work on conquering his fears.

Finally, if your child’s anxiety seems to be interfering with his schoolwork or friendships, talk to his school counselor or pediatrician. ♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

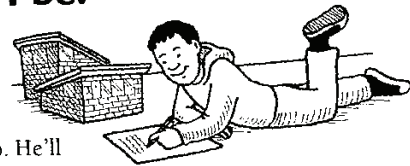
Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621

ACTIVITY CORNER

What will I be?

Your child has probably wondered what he will be when he grows up. Take his imagination a step further and encourage him to write a description for his perfect job. He’ll learn about careers—and get some writing practice.



Begin by having him read job listings in the newspaper or online. He might discover interesting positions like park ranger or flight attendant. He’ll also find out about job duties (leading park tours, keeping passengers safe) and skills needed (knowledge of plants and animals, friendliness).

Then, suggest that your youngster create an ad for a job he would like. If he enjoys building with Legos and drawing pictures, he might want to be an architect. He could write, “We need a creative person to design buildings. You should know how to use design software.” *Tip:* He can find facts about all kinds of careers at bls.gov/ooh. ♥

PARENT TO PARENT

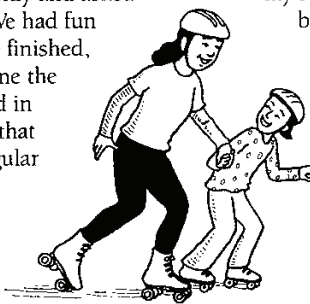
Family exercise leaders

My kids saw me working out with an aerobics video recently and asked if they could join in. We had fun together, and when we finished, my daughter showed me the sit-ups she had learned in PE. Then, I suggested that we make exercise a regular part of our week.

Now we take turns choosing an activity and leading the workout. I showed

the kids how to do Zumba moves, my daughter held a jump-rope contest, and my son organized relay races in the backyard.

One time I surprised the kids with a trip to an indoor pool, and another day, we went roller skating at the park. Working out as a family is helping us stay fit. And taking turns picking the activity means we don’t get tired of the same old routine. ♥



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 Lauren Ogden and her furry friend, Scarlet. Second place was captured by Payton Hammaker and his dog, Hampton. Coming in third place was Kodi Fowler's dog, Leroy. A total of \$260.00 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 veterinarians' offices, the students' persuasive essays will be displayed in animal shelters like the SPCA and LAPS.



Lauren Ogden, Kodi Fowler, and Payton Hammaker

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Fifth Grade SOUTH Award

Organization is one key to being a successful student. Arriving to class ready to learn, having a tidy desk, producing proficient work, using your time wisely, and handing in assignments in a timely manner all improve our productivity. We would like to recognize students that have all of these qualities. Congratulations to Gianna Fladd, Sara Sullivan, Kyler Alexander, and Grace Pfirman for earning the fifth grade SOUTH award!

Back Row

Grace Pfirman

Kyler Alexander

Front Row

Sara Sullivan

Gianna Fladd



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 .



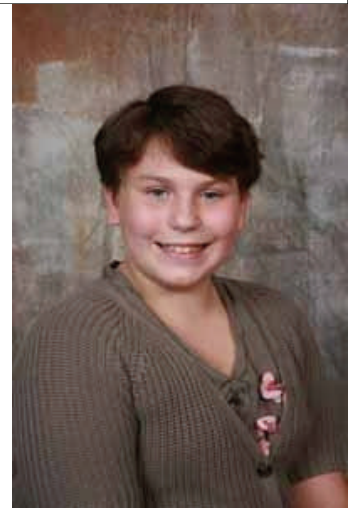
Austin Baker



Lexie Yerger



Parker Monoski



Jennafer Bowman

OCTOBER

TITLE I NEWS

South Williamsport Area School District

Title I Parent Policy Rommelt Middle School



The No Child Left Behind Federal Law requires that Title I parents be informed annually about our South Williamsport Area School District Title I Parent Policy. This Policy states the following:

- Parents will be sent letters informing them that their child is eligible to participate in Title I Reading.
- Parents will be given opportunities to offer suggestions about the planning, development and operation of the Title I program during the Back to School Nights, Parent Teacher conferences, Parent Teacher Organization Meetings, Title I Workshops, through surveys and through other school communications.
- Title I Parents will receive student progress reports during parent teacher conferences and each report card semester.
- Parent Workshops / Trainings will be offered throughout the school year to provide parents with strategies to help their child succeed in school.
- Materials will be made available to parents to use with their children at home to reinforce what the children are learning in reading and math at school.
- Parents will be sent a monthly newsletter entitled “The Reading Connection” which will provide them with helpful reading and writing suggestions for use at home. Also, Title I feature pages and Title I topics are disseminated to parents on a monthly to bi-monthly basis.
- Parents have access to the South Williamsport Area School District’s website through School wires that will provide them with information on Title I programs, reading instructional strategies to use at home and related websites.



Parents Right To Know – NCLB

The No Child Left Behind 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 Dr. Mark Stamm, Superintendent, South Williamsport Area School District, at 327-1581.

WE KICKED OUR WAY TO A CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to 6th Grade Mr. Hill's homeroom and 5th Grade Miss Cooke's homeroom for kicking and fielding their way to take their grade championship in our annual Kickball Tournament. On October 9th we started our tournament. Every team played every team once in a round robin tournament. Each team had their Odd and their Even team. Each student player voted two captains for their homeroom.

On October 29th the CHAMPIONS were awarded their traveling trophy. They have their homeroom and year engraved on the trophy plate. The team members also signed the kickball banner which is displayed in the Rommelt Gymnasium.

	6 th Grade	5 th Grade
1 st Place	Mr. Hill	Miss Cooke
2 nd Place	Mrs. Sahn	Mrs. Cruz
3 rd Place	Mr. Pearson	Mr. Brown
4 th Place	Mrs. Ogden	Mrs. Puller



← Fifth Grade

Sixth Grade →



4 WAY TUG-O-WAR CHAMPIONS

The 5th and 6th grade classes each had an Activity Day to challenge each homeroom class to a tug-o-war contest. All students participated in Girls against Girls, Boys against Boys, Bigs against Bigs, and Littles against Littles.

The CHAMPIONS:

	6 th Grade	5 th Grade
Girls:	Mr. Pearson	Mrs. Puller
Boys:	Mrs. Ogden	Mr. Brown
Bigs:	Mrs. Ogden	Mrs. Cruz
Littles:	Mrs. Ogden	Mr. Brown

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

- 1 PTO/ 7:00 at Central Elementary School
- 6 ELECTION DAY
- 9 Veteran's Day Assembly
1st Trimester Ends
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY
- 11-17 American Education Week
- 16 Fall Festival 5:00-8:00 at the High School
- 19 ACT 80 Day with 11:30 dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 20 ACT 80 Day with 11:30 dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 21-26 NO SCHOOL
- 22 **Thanksgiving**
- 30 BOX TOP COLLECTION

