

Smitty's School News

Volume 2, Issue 5

January 2012

Mrs. LAWSON'S MESSAGE

Dear RRS Families,

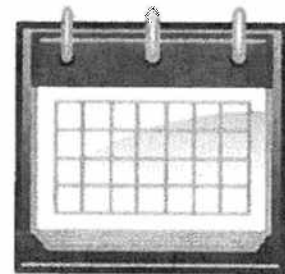
Happy New Year! This time of year, many people make resolutions. This is an opportunity to talk with your child about setting goals for the remainder of the school year. Once a goal is created, talk about ways to achieve the goal. Post the goal and discuss progress as time goes by.

In addition, winter is a wonderful time to enjoy reading with your child. When it is cold outside, snuggling up and sharing a favorite book is a great way to connect with your child. Additional information about reading with your child can be found in the back of this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Mrs. LAWSON

Save These Dates

- 1/10 RRS PTA Meeting 7pm RRS Art Room
- 1/12 HPCSD BOE Meeting 7pm FDR Auditorium
- 1/16 No School ~ M.L.King Day
- 1/17 RRS BLT Meeting 4pm RRS Library
- 1/26 HPCSD BOE Meeting 7pm District Office
- 1/27 End of 2nd quarter
- 2/15 Report cards go home
- 2/16 Early Release—Superintendent's Conference Half-day
- 2/17-20 No School—Presidents' Day
- 2/22 RRS Science Fair



Character Education: Fairness



This month, students will be learning about fairness. Fairness means

1. Treating others the way you want to be treated.
2. Trying to give everyone rights and chances like you have.
3. Doing your best to share and take turns
4. Playing according to the rules

Fairness doesn't mean that everything is equal or the same. There are some charts that may be helpful and they are attached to this newsletter for you to keep and refer to at home. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions concerns.

Did You Know?

Facts From Around Our School and the District



Did You Know Hyde Park Food Service ...

- offers breakfast at no cost to every child at Ralph R. Smith every day
- offers many choices each day
- provides samples of new items
- offers fresh fruits and vegetables daily
- serves milk that is 1% or less
- is a great value and encourages healthy eating. Visit the MyPlate link at the District web page: www.hydeparkschools.org

Book of The Month

Each classroom teacher will be given a book every month of the school year to share with the class. It will help the building share a common language as we discuss and learn about being a person of good character. Be sure to ask your child about these wonderful books!



This month's book is Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman. Grace loves stories. She has a marvelous imagination as well as a strong flair for the dramatic, she acts the stories out, always giving herself the most exciting parts. When her teacher says the class will perform Peter Pan, some students think Grace can't possibly be the lead. Is that fair?



20/20 Vision

If the temperature is 20 degrees or more, students have 20 minutes of outdoor recess.

Please be sure your child makes appropriate clothing choices to play outside. Only students who wear snowpants and boots will be allowed to play in the snow (assuming we ever get any snow!). Students who choose not to wear snowpants and boots will be limited to playing on the blacktopped areas during recess.

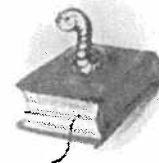
ALL students will go outdoors for recess (unless there is a doctor's note). If a student is well enough to come to school, he or she is well enough to go outside for 20 minutes of recess.

Reading Room

Monthly Reading Strategy:

This month's reading strategies are **Look at the Marks** and **Use my Voice**

These are fluency strategies to help students read quickly and smoothly. You can prompt for:



Look at the Marks

- * Stop at the periods.
- * Take a quick breath at the commas.
- * Watch for signs along the way...exclamation marks...question marks.

Use my Voice

- * How would the character say that?
- * How is the character feeling when he/she says this?
- * Can you read it like you're talking?
- * Speed up at the exciting parts.
- * Slow down when there is a lot of new information
- * Try reading it without your finger.

Have fun reading!

Classroom News

Mrs. Feron's class has been doing an author study of Ezra Jack Keats. So far, they have read The Snowy Day and Pet Show!, and next week they will read Peter's Chair. Their study includes making a recommendation of who would like each book.

The Snowy Day was a favorite of Riley, because she likes to play in the snow. Kristen would recommend this book to her mother, because she likes to build snowmen.



Pet Show! was Gus's favorite, because the boy entered a pet germ in the pet show. This was Sophia's favorite book, too. She would recommend it to her friend, because he is old and cannot read and she would read it to him.

Kindergarten Registration ~ Week of March 19

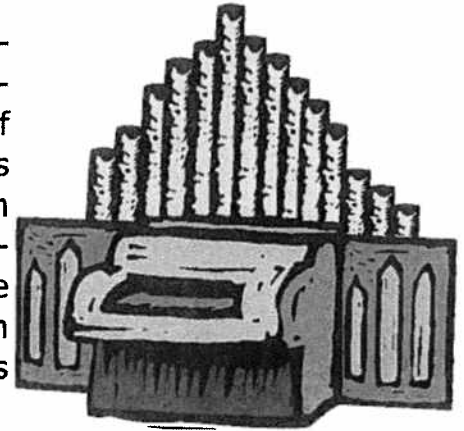


We will be holding kindergarten registration the week of March 19. All students who were born on or before December 1, 2007 are eligible for Kindergarten. If your child is eligible, please check with the Main Office to be sure we have your name on our list and will mail your family a packet. If you know of another student to is eligible, be sure to let us know that, too!

Music Notes

The bands and chorus had an outstanding performance at their Winter Concert on Thursday, January 5 at F. D. Roosevelt High School.

The concert started with a guest performance by RRS alumnus Christopher Rush on the theatre organ. Next on the program was the Beginning Band. This group is comprised of students who have just started studying their instruments this fall. It was quite an accomplishment for them to perform three songs after such a short period of study. They were followed by the Advanced Band who also performed three songs. The last group to perform was the combined Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus. Hats off to our students, as well as Mrs. Vanderlee and Mrs. Vinson for a wonderful performance!



Title I Information

All students received a copy of the Title I information to bring home in December. The last page is a signature sheet that is to be signed by a parent and returned to school. If you have not yet done this, please return this form as soon as possible. If you

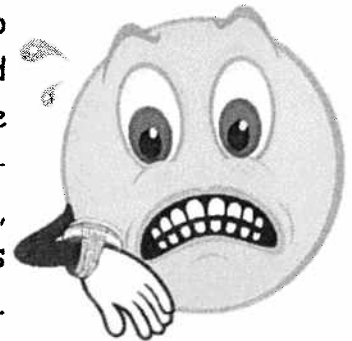


have misplaced it, please let our office know that you need a replacement.

What Time Is It?

Just a reminder that students are not allowed in the building until 9:15am.

Please do not drop off your child early, as he or she will be standing outside, unsupervised, until the doors open at 9:15am. Thank you for your cooperation.



“Have a Heart” at RRS

RRS Students will be participating the national “Jump Rope for Heart” and “Hoops for Heart” events as we begin the new year. It’s a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Students can contribute a small amount of money to the AHA in exchange for jump roping and doing foul shots in class. In addition, students will be learning about the importance of heart health. Our efforts will culminate on Friday, February 3 when all students and staff will participate in the national “Wear Red” day, so get that red clothing ready!



Mr. Moughan, Physical Education

1000 Books in Bags on the Wall

If you have ever visited our school, you have noticed the wall of red tote bags in our lobby. We started with 100 bags each containing 10 books. The program is aimed toward incoming kindergartners through second graders. The idea is that by the time the student has completed second grade, the student and his/her family will have read all 1000 books. That would be quite an accomplishment! If you and your child would like to join this project, please stop by the office to complete a form. After that, you can exchange bags any time you are in our building. Soon you will be on your way to reading 1000 books!



Community Service at R. R. S.

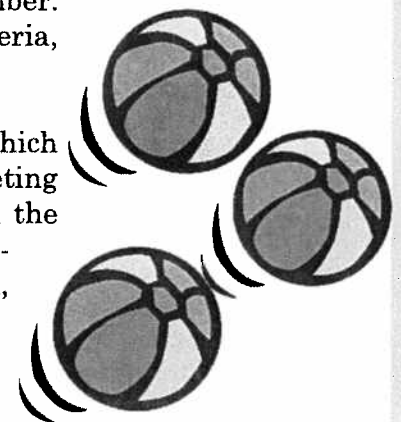
Toys for Tots

Thanks to everyone who brought in a toy for the Marines' Toys for Tots campaign. The box was overflowing then it was picked up. This is an event that our school has been participating in for the past four years. Thanks to Mrs. Ardalan and her class for organize this!

Student Council News

The R.R.S. Student Council has met twice since the beginning of December. We have been discussing recess games and equipment, food in the cafeteria, as well as the condition of our upstairs bathrooms.

The students asked for more balls to be available on the playground, which we provided for them the very next day. In addition they will be meeting with the director of food services to talk about healthy food choices in the cafeteria. The students are currently making signs to post in the bathrooms to remind students to wash their hands, throw away their trash, and flush the toilets.



Report to Parents

The Rewards of Reading

You know how important it is to read to your children. Children whose families read with them do better in school. And the bonds that you make with your children when you read with them help them feel loved, comforted, and secure. Like most families, you want to read with your children, but somehow days can go by without you sitting down with them and opening a book. The key is to make it a priority. Here are several suggestions to help your children improve their reading skills.

Fifteen minutes a day can change their lives. You may be surprised to know that educators recommend just 15 minutes a day of reading, as a minimum. Like exercise, of course, longer sessions are even more beneficial.

Always have a book on hand, no matter where you are. Keep a small book in your purse or car's glove compartment. Or have a picture book or two in the baby's stroller. Make sure that you and your children always have something to read when time is available.

Focus on their interests. Reading with your should be for pleasure, so get books from the school or public library that feature characters or topics they're really interested in. It doesn't matter if they're reading a book about NASCAR or NASA ~ either way, they're reading!

Ask them questions while you're reading. Everyone is a better "listener" when they know they're going to be asked questions about what they're listening to. Don't make it a test, but do keep their interest going by asking them about what's being read. Get their brains working. Don't just ask who the characters are. Instead, ask questions like "Why do you think he did that?" "What would you do if you were in that situation?" or "What do you think will happen next?"

Be a patient listener. It can be difficult listening to your children struggle while reading. But think how terribly important it is that they succeed. Don't jump in and finish the sentence for them, no matter how slowly they're reading. Instead, encourage their effort and let them see that you're proud they're reading, and not annoyed that it's taking so long.

Get everyone involved. The more people who read with your children, the more they'll see that reading is important. Talk with the other adults and older children in your household and let them know that reading with each child is going to be a daily activity, and that you need them to participate.

But first... Kids make time for a lot of extras in their day. So do parents. TV shows, computer games, and going online can eat up surprising amounts of time. Read first ~ before the computer goes on or their favorite TV show comes on.

There's something special about owning a book. Libraries and garage sales offer "well loved" books for sale, often for as little as 25 cents. Keep spare change on hand so you can pick up some great reads for your children when you see a sale. When birthdays or holidays come around, make sure there's always a good book wrapped up and waiting.

Yes, you're busy, Yes, your children are too. But reading with your children really needs to be a part of your day, every day. Fifteen minutes a day is a small investment that will generate enormous rewards.





Attention Ralph R. Smith Families! We are looking for some talented people!

RRS would like to start an alternate recess enrichment program for students, on Fridays from 11:45 to 2:00. Volunteers are needed to run and supervise the groups with a maximum of 10 students in each group. All necessary supplies will be provided!

Enrichment activities could include:

- * Lego challenges or Math games
- * Boggle/Scrabble
- * Facilitating a Book club or a Board Game Club
- * Art Club
- * Zumba or yoga
- * Teaching students to play chess/checkers or how to knit
- * Other ideas ???



If you are interested in running one of these groups or would like more information, please fill out the bottom of this page and return it by 1/12/12.

Name: _____

Best way to contact you:

email: _____ phone: _____

Student Name/Teacher: _____

I would like to run an enrichment activity with students. I can lead the following activities: _____

I would need the following supplies: _____

4 Ways to Treat People Fairly

Find ways to share, take turns, and feel less jealous

Ask people what you can do to help make things more fair

Include others in games and activities. Don't leave people out.

Respect people who are different from you.



sign up now!



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IMPORTANT! If you enrolled your AdvantEdge Card to support our school prior to August of 2010, you will need to re-enroll your card this year.

Thank you for your support

Take this form to family, friends, co-workers & neighbors to get as many signed up as possible. Return to school by 1/31/12

Ten Digit Price Chopper Card Number*

Customer Name

E-mail Address**

* required

** By providing e-mail address you agree to receive e-mails from Price Chopper regarding the Tools for Schools Program.

Sign up on line, or complete this form and return to school and we will sign you up.

