

Smitty's School News



Ralph R. Smith
Elementary
School

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2011

Mrs. Lawson's Message

Dear RRS Families,

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year! It was great to see all of the smiling faces as they entered the building on the first day! I would like to thank the PTA for providing all of our kindergarteners with t-shirts to wear on their first day of school.

The students are settling in and enjoying getting to know their classmates, teachers and routines. If at any time, you have a question or concern, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. I look forward to a productive and successful school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lawson

Save These Dates

9/7: First Day of School

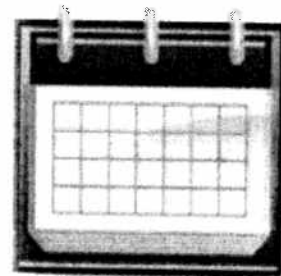
9/13: PTA Meeting at 7:00 pm

9/20: Fall Pictures

9/20: K—2 Meet the Staff Night at 7:00 pm

9/21: 3—5 Meet the Staff Night at 7:00 pm

9/29: No School



Character Education: Respect



This month, students will be learning about being respectful. Respect is a special kind of caring. It is showing others that we value them and that everyone deserves to be treated kindly and thoughtfully. We will be learning that there are seven ways to show respect. Please take the time to review these simple steps with your child.

We will also be discussing seven ways to speak up when you feel disrespected. These steps are very important and can be practiced at home so that your child knows what to do and how to stick up for themselves in an appropriate manner.

The charts that we are using in school 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 or concerns.

Did you Know?
Facts from Around the
District



We have a new special education coordinator for the elementary schools. Her name is Eric Vredenburg. She can be reached at 229—4000 extension 1030.



From the Desk of Mrs. Ray

Just a reminder that all new students, 2nd graders and 4th graders are required to have a physical for this school year. New students need to present proof of full immunizations as required by the New York State Education Department. For those parents who have already sent in the physicals, thank you. If your child will be receiving a physical later on, please let me know on the reminder form I will be sending home. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call in the health office at 229-4060.

I encourage you to send your child to school with a bottle of water. Children need water to keep them hydrated, help with memory and concentration, aid in digestion and maintain body temperature, especially if they have been playing hard on a hot day. It will make a difference in how they feel!

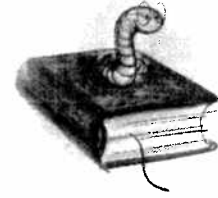
Book of The Month



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 focuses on being respectful. Each classroom teacher will read the book Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes. In this book, Chester and his friend Wilson have their own special way of doing things together and like it this way. Their world changes when Lilly moves into the neighborhood. Chester and Wilson learn how to respect the differences that make everyone special.

Reading Room



Monthly Reading Strategy:

This month's reading strategies are **Chunk the Word** and **Use What I Know**.

These are word-solving strategies to help students decode words quickly and accurately. You can prompt for:

Chunk the Word:

- Look inside the word. Is there a chunk (part) you know?
- Use your fingers to find the parts you know.
- Cover up part of the word so you can see the chunk.
- Find a part of the word you can say.

Blend the parts together/crash the parts together.

Use What I Know:

- Is this like a word you know?
- What is the same about this word and the new word?
- Where would you break this word to see a part that's the same as the word you know?

You can use the part you know to help you read the new word.

Have fun reading!

Stop & Shop Helps Schools



Did you know that when you shop at our local Stop & Shop you could be donating funds to our school? Through the A+ School Rewards program, you can assist our school in earning funds to support programs here at RRS! Each time you shop and use your Stop & shop card, from October 7th through March 29th, our school will earn cash.

This money can be used for playground equipment, field trips, books for our classrooms and much more. All you have to do is register your Stop & Shop card online and select our school to begin earning A+ School Rewards.

Welcome to our new staff!

WELCOME

We have several new faces around the building this year!

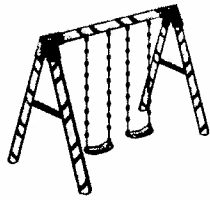
Barbara Delabanty is teaching 5th grade. She came to us from Netherwood where she also taught 5th grade.

Kristen Marchetti is filling a leave replacement for Andrea Antonecchia in grade 3.

Jeanne Marie Freer is filling a leave replacement for Cathy O'Connell in reading.

Theresa DeFelice is our new early intervention TA working in kindergarten. She came to us from Violet Avenue where she worked as a co-teaching TA.

Dana Jafary is working as a TA each morning in grade 3 co-teaching. She is shared with Violet Avenue.



Recess Before Lunch

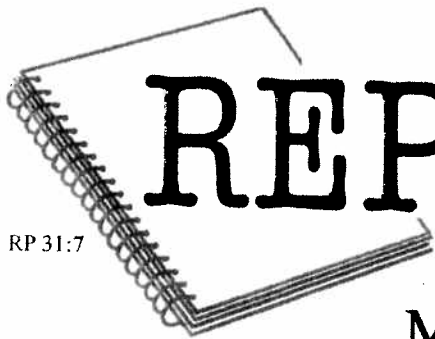


Ralph R. Smith is beginning the new year with recess before lunch. We are very excited about this initiative! Research shows that there are many benefits to this schedule. They include:

- ~Calmer and more relaxed atmosphere in the cafeteria
- ~Students return to the classroom calmer and ready to learn
- ~Students eat more and waste less food
- ~Fewer visits to the nurse
- ~Improved behavior in the cafeteria

This year, each class will have one monitor assigned to them. This means that the monitor will take students to recess and lunch. My hope is that this will help the monitors establish a positive rapport with the students and give them an opportunity to sit with the students during lunch to review what has happened at recess each day. Please ask your child who their monitor is and help by reviewing our school rules: respect responsible, and safe.





RP 31:7

REPORT_{to} PARENTS

Making the Right Choices

Children can often be delightful. They also can sometimes be deceitful or unkind, bullies or victims. Sometimes the difference can be in the lessons they learn, both at home and at school. Here are some ways to help your children grow up to be respectful and kind, and to have the self-respect they need to make the right choices, both now and in the future.

Trade places. TV shows and movies can be helpful in teaching children how to be more sensitive to others' feelings. When you're watching a program together, and one character behaves unkindly to another, pause the movie or ask at the commercial: "Did you notice how mean that character was? How so you think that made the other person feel? What would you do in that situation?" Talk it through together and stress the importance of treating people with respect.

Face the mirror. One of the most powerful lessons parents can teach their children is this: The real you is the way you behave when no one is watching. Children need to learn to behave well and treat others well because that's the kind of person they want to be, and because that's the only way to respect the person they see in the mirror.

Read up. From the time your children first hear bedtime stories through the time they're old enough to read for themselves, look for books that quietly impart messages about self-discipline, kindness to others, dealing with peer pressure, and telling the truth. Talk about the stories and see if they've ever been in a situation like the character in the book, or if they know of someone who has. Share your family values about how best to deal with those situations.

Truth or Consequences. Discuss with your children that trust is one of the most important characteristics a person can ever have, and that it is very hard to re-earn that trust once it is lost. Ask them how they would feel if they found out someone had lied to them. As a parent, show in your words and deeds that you are a trustworthy and honest person as well.

No excuses. Sometimes, parents are unaware that their children are misbehaving in school until they are notified by a teacher. If you get that call or note from the teacher, talk to your child, and make an appointment to meet with the teacher.



Stand strong. It is difficult for children to deal with situations in which their classmates, neighbors, siblings, or friends are behaving in a bad or cruel manner. Help them be prepared by role-playing ahead of time – act out situations they might face and see how they'd react. Talk with them about other ways to deal with the peer pressure, and let them know that, while standing up to their friends or peers might temporarily make them less popular with that group, in the long run they will have earned the respect of those whose opinions matter more.

The golden rule. Teach your children to treat others the way they themselves would like to be treated. Reinforce it at home, by treating your children with respect and expecting to be treated respectfully in return. Reinforce it through involvement in community activities that work to help others. And, most importantly, show your children you truly believe it by behaving respectfully yourself.

NEESP

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7 Ways to Speak Up When You Feel Disrespected



Stay respectful even if you don't feel respected.

Plan what you're going to say—don't just say the first thing that comes into your head.

Earn respect by caring about everyone involved. Don't get rid of your hurt by hurting someone else.



Ask for the other side of the story. Get the facts straight.

Keep your comments short and clear.

Understand how the other person feels. Sometimes people say they're mad when they're really sad, jealous, hurt, or confused. Ask questions so you understand.

Practice good manners. Politely tell the person how you feel and what you need. Work together to find a solution.

7 Ways to Show Respect



Reach out to others and learn about their beliefs and customs.

Enjoy the differences among people—they make life interesting!

Show respect for rules and laws by obeying them.

Put on your best manners. Speak politely, help people, and choose kind words.

Eat right, get plenty of sleep and exercise, learn healthy habits, and respect yourself.

Care about plants and animals and the air and water that living things need.

Treat property that belongs to you and other people carefully.

