

## **January 2008 E-letter to RSS Parents**

Greetings!

It's hard to believe that over half our year is over. So much is happening on and around campus for our students and the population we serve through Outreach and Professional Development. I hope you check out our website regularly for updates.

We are making plans for next year already! We are looking forward to having a few more students with us and are already growing a waiting list in some of the grade levels. As always, we have nothing but the best interest of your child in mind. We do treasure the time we have with each and every student here at RSS.

Here are some news items, in no particular order:

### **Office Manager Position**

Yes, Julie is going to resign. After nearly two wonderful years of organizing us, she and her family are moving to North Carolina with Eric's new position. I couldn't convince her to do that commute! Eric begins on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and she will leave us as soon as her house sells. So, if you have any terrific leads on someone who loves kids, can treat everyone as if they are the only one in the office, organize a 'herd of cats,' and save money while doing the job of five people, please send her or him our way. We would love to have this person on board before Julie submits her official letter so that we can have a smooth transition.

### **Transitional Students**

Do you think your student might be ready to transition back to public/private school? The first step of this journey is to make an appointment with your classroom teacher so that she or he can schedule a conference with your student's educational team. They will discuss with you the feasibility of such a move. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, I am not the first person to schedule an appointment with, since I am not all that familiar your child's academic record or growth. As someone once explained my role: I move the furniture out of the way, so the teachers can dance.

A Transition Meeting will be held for RSS parents, Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 6:30 – 8:00 in Beverly Hall. A panel of former RSS students and parents will be there to discuss and answer questions about life after RSS.

Information for reenrollment will be coming out in about another month or so.

### **Middle School Science Fair**

The Middle School students have been working hard on putting the scientific method into action lately. On Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, they will be displaying their projects in Beverly Hall for judging. Project Managers from CompassLEARNING and Dell Computers will be the official judges. The projects will be available for viewing by parents and the public in Beverly Hall from 2:15 – 3:00 on Friday.

### **Cold Weather Information**

PLEASE! Mark your student's clothing with name before sending them to school. We have too many unidentified jackets, coats, mittens, etc., in the Office that will be given away to a charitable organization because their owners have been lost.

This goes without saying, but say it I must. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. During this serious cold and flu season, we see students arrive with little more than shorts and short sleeves. There isn't a student here who can avoid going outside during the day to get to another classroom. Please send a coat or jacket with the name written inside.

If school must be canceled due to inclement weather, you should be notified by your classroom teacher the evening before. We have a phone tree set up and a process in place. So, be sure you have shared your most current information with the school and your student's homeroom teacher so that you can be contacted, immediately. The crawl across the TV screen may not get us posted. As a rule, we WILL cancel if Austin ISD closes. However, if AISD is open we may still close as we do not have maintenance to help with slippery boardwalks and icy walkways. The safety of our children and faculty come first. So, bottom line? Stay well connected via cell and home phone with your child's classroom teacher!

### **Parent Thank Yous**

We all wish to gratefully acknowledge and thank the Parent Association for assisting in our purchase of Foss Science Kits. They are now in the classrooms and being used by the teachers and enjoyed by the students. THANK YOU!

Kudos to Kathy Greene who donated her time to research grants for us at the Hogg Foundation. She did the leg work so that we could get down to the writing aspect. We really do appreciate you doing this for us, Kathy, thank you!

### **Recycling Update**

We no longer have a recycling bin for you to contribute your paper. We were informed that we didn't generate enough paper for company. However, we hope you will continue using your Randalls card, Office Depot [back to school number at the check out desk], Westbank Dry Cleaners [sign "RSS" on the receipts and return to the Cleaners].

### **Needs for School**

Thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity for supplying us with so many items in the classroom. One item we are in need of is two atomic clocks, if you have one or if you would like to donate one. We would really appreciate it!

### **VIP Day**

VIP Day at RSS is Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a very important day for our students and one adult they select to come to school with them to share an abbreviated school day. This "VIP" will be allowed to experience RSS's curriculum, ALT and special area classes. The day will be shortened to a half day, ending at noon, but this year, all classes will be included to give our VIPs insight as to the daily schedule of our students. This event is for adults only, no children please. Look for more information coming home soon from your home room teacher.

### **Annual Campaign Update**

An anonymous donor has offered \$10,000 IF all parents make a donation to the Annual Fund. Currently, 60% of our parents have participated. The donation can be in any amount; the act of donating is the key. PLEASE! If you haven't already given, do so immediately. We need the money for so many items around campus. Thank you for your kind consideration.

### **Golf Classic**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Golf Classic at Avery Ranch is just around the corner, on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is working very hard to ensure this is an even bigger and better event than last year's. If you didn't get the Wimbledon tickets or the Longhorn steer, you still may have a chance. So, get your four-some ready, paddles up for the auction, and let's get ready to PARTY! More information will be coming soon.

### **Soaring Eagles Summer Camp**

We are already thinking about summer and taking applications. The sessions are posted on the web along with an application form for your convenience. As before, there will be three sessions for the camp, and two sessions for ALT.

### **2008-2009 Calendar**

The 2008-2009 calendar is just about ready for acceptance. However, we need to add a few dates before releasing it to the public. Presently, we are looking at starting school at the end of August, but it may change slightly. The Committee worked hard on it, looking at several area school districts as well as our own campus and student needs. We will have it posted on the website and send copies home as soon as it is adopted.