



Principals' Page



October 2017

Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, Principal

Mrs. Jen Rinehimer, 5th Grade Principal
Dr. Kathie Kotch, 6th Grade Principal

Mr. Mike DeCaro, 7th Grade Principal

ALICE 101 For Parents

The Spring-Ford Area School District, in conjunction with the Spring-Ford School Police Department, invites you to an **ALICE Parent Information Night** on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7 p.m, at Spring-Ford Area High School Hurda Learning Center. Parents will learn about the ALICE Training Program, preview the book "*I'm Not Scared... I'm Prepared*" and ask questions. This event is geared towards parents only.

ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. [Click here](#) to learn more about the ALICE program at Spring-Ford.

Please [click here](#) for more information and to RSVP.



Upcoming Events

- 10/2 ALICE 101 for Parents @ 7:00pm
- 10/9 No School for Students
- 10/10 Yankee Candle Orders Due
- 10/12 Home & School Meetings
7th Grade @ 6:00pm
5th/6th Grade @ 7:00pm
- 10/13 7th Grade Picture Day
Blue & Gold Day
- 10/17 5/6 Picture Day
- 10/20 Grillebration & PINK OUT Day
- 10/24 Title I Open House @ 5:00pm-7:00pm
- 10/25 Spirit Days Begin
- 10/27 5th/6th Grade Halloween Classroom Celebrations

October Spirit Days

The last two weeks of October are filled with fun activities at the 5/6/7 Center! We will be promoting our theme of Good Character, Good Choices, Drug and Bully Free. Help us celebrate Unity Day, Red Ribbon Week and Mix It Up Day by participating in the following spirit days....



Friday, 10/13	Spirit Day	Wear Blue & Gold
Wednesday, 10/25	National Unity Day	Wear Orange
Thursday, 10/26	Smarties Don't Do Drugs Day	Wear clothes with colleges logos
Friday, 10/27	Red-y to Live a Drug Free Life	Wear Red
Monday, 10/30	Too Bright to Do Drugs Day	Wear bright colors
Tuesday, 10/31	Drugs and I Don't Mix—Mix It Up Day	Wear crazy, clashing clothes

Susan G. Komen to Honor 5/6/7 Students and Staff

SOLES WITH A HEART

Sneaker drive for the victims of Hurricane Harvey



Susan G. Komen Philadelphia and Dietz & Watson are coming together to celebrate Spring-Ford Area School District's exceptional sneaker collection for the victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Students and staff of the 5th, 6th, and 7th Grade Center will enjoy one of Dietz & Watson's trademark "Grillebrations" which includes hot dogs being grilled freshly on site, all the fixings and other special treats on Friday, 10/20. The students collected a total of 1,438 pairs of gently used sneakers for the "Soles with a Heart" campaign. Students and staff will celebrate by participating in a **PINK OUT** day on Friday, 10/20 as well.



American Education Week Scheduled

So that we can accommodate as many visitors as possible, the 5th/6th Grade Center will celebrate American Education Week on November 6, 8, and 9, 2017. This change in schedule is to allow both the 5th/6th/7th Grade Center and Upper Providence Elementary School to have maximum use of the parking facilities. Parents of 5th grade students are welcome to stop by and visit any one of their child's classes during the hours of 9:15am-10:45am and 1:45pm-3:15pm on Monday, 11/6. On Wednesday, 11/8, 6th grade parents are welcome during the hours of 9:15am-10:45am and 1:45pm-3:15pm.

The 7th Grade Center will be hosting parents on Thursday, 11/9 during the hours of 8:15am-10:00 and 1:15pm-2:30pm.

We are requesting that all parents report to the office upon their arrival. It would be greatly appreciated if you could let your child know the approximate time of your visit so that they can inform you in advance of their classroom location.

We look forward to your visit and the opportunity to share with you the many fine activities in which your children are involved.



Spring Valley YMCA Introduces New Programs



7th Grade Membership Initiative

The Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA offers a free one-year membership to every 7th grader.

Y Achievers Program (Grades 5-12)

The Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA's Y Achievers program is designed to expose 5th-12th graders to a wide range of career options and the tools to achieve their higher educational goals. Y Achievers encompasses 5 Programmatic Thrusts: College Readiness, Career Exploration, Leadership Development, Character Development and Community Service.

5th-8th graders participate in leadership sessions and activities for their age group. College and career choices are introduced with the goal of preparing students with the tools they need to excel in the program through 12th grade. Sessions are held at the Spring Valley Y, every other Thursday evening.

The program runs September – June. Each Y Achiever receives a free one-year YMCA membership while enrolled in the program.

Y Leaders (Grades 6-12)

Help the community, learn leadership skills and make friends. Teen Leaders have opportunities to volunteer, discuss issues, and attend retreats. Y Teen Leaders meet at the Spring Valley Y on Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm. **Y Teen Leaders is free for Full Privilege and Program Members.**



5th Grade News



October 2017

Letter from Mrs. Rinehimer

Hello 5th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians,

First let me welcome all of you to 5th grade. As with any transition, the first few weeks are filled with nervousness, anticipation of the unknown and plenty of new experiences. Each and every student has done an amazing job settling into the 5th grade. Our goal for the next few weeks is to develop those good academic habits that will help you stay successful throughout the year. In addition, we will be working on making new friends, joining after school activities and utilizing our resources.

Parents are very interested to learn about the day's events. Often times, our question of "How was your day?" is followed with a "good" or "fine". Here are a few ways to encourage more than a one word answer.

1. What was your favorite part about school today?
2. Was the test you were studying for as hard/easy as you thought it would be? What kinds of questions were on it?
3. Tell me one new thing you learned today and I'll tell you one thing I learned.
4. What story/book did you read today? Tell me about the characters.
5. What are you learning in science/social studies?
6. Tell me about a really easy/hard math problem.
7. What game did you play at recess?

Connecting after school and doing homework together can be stressful for parents and students. Give an opportunity to decompress before starting a conversation or homework time. I would also encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher via phone or e-mail on a regular basis and especially any time you have a concern.

It is with great pleasure that I begin this journey with you and your children as they learn, grow and even struggle through these challenging years. The class of 2025 is off to a great start!

Warmly,

Jennifer Rinehimer

Lessons Learned

The following are just some of the topics being covered in each of the 4 major subject areas:

ELA- Spelling and reading stories from the anthology. Working on the 4 types of sentences and finding subject and predicate. Writing narratives including characters, setting, plot, descriptive language and details.

SOCIAL STUDIES- Learning about Oceans and Continents.

MATH-Multiplication of whole numbers including finding estimates, using the distributive property, and traditional algorithm.

SCIENCE- Learning what it means to be a scientist and using the scientific method. Lessons on ecosystems specifically in the Everglades in Florida and the similarities and differences between the 6 land biomes.

Welcome to New 5th Grade Staff

The Patriot team welcomes Jamie Cross as a Learning Support teacher. Mrs. Cross has been teaching for ten years. She graduated from Temple University and received her Master's degree from Holy Family University. We are very happy to welcome her to Spring-Ford!

Angie Fusco joins the 5/6 team as an Instructional Assistant with Mrs. Wake. Mrs. Fusco was an assistant at the 7th grade center. She is a valuable asset to the building and we are happy she made the move.

The Colonists welcome Mrs. Storm as a Long Term Sub for Mrs. Riegel. She worked with us last year in 5th grade and is excited to work with this year's 5th grade. Mrs. Storm graduated from Millersville and this is her third year at Spring-Ford.

The Patriots welcome Mrs. Gniewoz as a Long Term Sub for Mrs. Malone. Mrs. Gniewoz graduated from Millersville University and taught first grade in North Carolina. This is her third year subbing in Spring-Ford.

From the Desk of Dr. Kotch.....



6th Grade News



October 2017

Letter from Dr. Kotch

Hello 6th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians and Families,

It has been a great start to the 2017-2018 school year. I have seen a tremendous growth over the summer and am very proud of all of my 6th grade students. "Doing your best" is what we are striving for this year, academically, socially, physically and emotionally – each day, coming in with a positive "I can" attitude.

Even though students are settling into the routines of the school days, there is still plenty of excitement in 6th grade. To ensure that we continue the school year on a successful route, I offer the following guidelines:

Communicate with your child's teachers on a regular basis via phone/email (available on our school website).

Model what it means to be learners. This means not having all the answers. Coach them to seek out answers in their own ways.

If you notice your child is showing signs of academic, social, or emotional trouble, please contact their teachers, school counselor or myself. We want to work together, as a team, to support your son or daughter.

Assist your child with time management. Completing homework should be a part of the evening schedule, as well as athletics/activities and family time.

Good work habits form with repetition, and these habits will serve your child well now and for many years to come.

It has been said that "experience is often the best teacher." To promote their leadership skills and further forge relationships among our 5th grade students and any new students, I am asking our 6th graders to act as models and mentors...in the hallways, cafeteria, recess yard, and especially our school buses. Many are already consistently demonstrating these attributes on a daily basis!

In closing, I am proud to be working with the Class of 2024 and all of you for the next three years, as together we make it a most successful experience for our students.

Best regards,

Kathie Kotch, Ed.D.

Lessons Learned

The following are just some of the topics being covered in each of the 4 major subject areas:

ELA – Reading the story *The Making of a Book*; sequencing skills, integrating new vocabulary, writing skills, grammar and spelling into their knowledge bases; subjects/predicates, domain specific verbs, and narrative writing.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Reviewing Early Civilizations (Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages).

MATH – Converting fractions to decimals and vice versa; comparing rates, ratios, finding unit rates, GCF and LCM.

SCIENCE – Lessons on eclipses; the Earth, Sun and Moon; and classifying living things into kingdoms

Special note – Our counselors are also starting their lessons in classrooms...stay tuned for an update!

Welcome to New 6th Grade Staff

Jessica Noecker will be joining the 5/6 Center as a 6th grade school counselor at the beginning of October. She has worked in elementary school counseling for almost 4 years and feels so fortunate to be able to work with the staff and students at the 5/6 Center!

The Trailblazer team welcomes **Megan Solazzo** as a Learning Support teacher. Sixth grade is not her first appointment with Spring-Ford, as she has been a valuable member of our summer Extended School Year program.

Greta Ertzgard also joins the Trailblazer team as an Instructional Assistant with Mrs. Arganetto. Her talents and expertise are a wonderful addition to our building.



Coming Soon

Our 6th grade students may again voluntarily participate in the Pennsylvania Youth Survey during the week of November 6, 2017. If you would like more information, please visit www.pays.state.pa.us. A letter regarding this survey will be sent via Sklyert on October 3rd.



7th Grade News



October 2017

Unity Days Begin To Build Team Chemistry

Yes, pool noodles and tennis racquets are usually associated with students when it comes to summer vacation.

However, as you can see by the picture, this year they were used as part of a team building activity during one of our 5 Unity Days.

Each year, our seventh grade counselors work with teachers as well as the eighth grade counselors to plan a day that works to help build friendships and strategies to be successful academically, socially and emotionally.

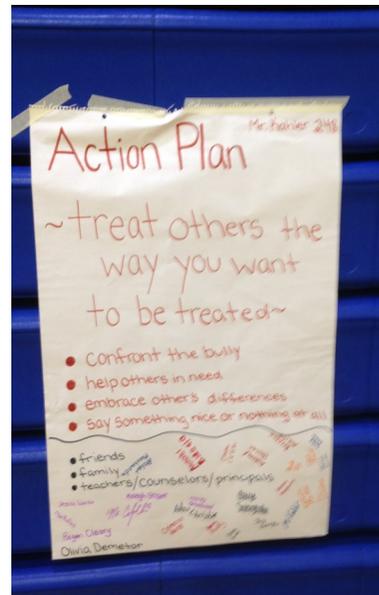
Some of the activities that the students participate in include "Find Someone Who", discussions about personal responsibility, group conversations about how actions and interactions affect others, and ultimately end in each homeroom creating an action plan detailing what some of the common practices of each homeroom will include (You can see a picture of one of the action plans below this article). Some groups felt strongly about how others are treated face to face, others mentioned interactions on social media and others talked about the characteristics of a good student and what that looked like in the classroom. Students have overwhelmingly enjoyed the 5 hours committed to this day to build relationships with both classmates and staff.



After School Intramurals

After school activities include much more than team sports at the 7th grade Center. I wanted to highlight two specific groups this month as we start the year.

First, for those of you with children who like to play games, exercise or play team sports without the highest level of completion; intramurals may be the right fit for your child. These will be starting the week of October 23rd and provide a great opportunity for students to not only enjoy the sport, but also make some friendships. Football and basketball are the first two intramurals and hockey, soccer, castle ball and kickball are some of the other intramurals throughout the year.



Yearbook Shout-Outs

If you'd like to send a note to your student at the end of the year in their yearbook, you will be able to do that. Yearbook Shout-Out Forms will be coming home in mid-October.

Homework Club

Homework club has started at the 7th Grade Center! If your child is looking for a place to do homework (with other students), Homework club may be the right place for them. Students would stay after school until 4:00 when they would need to be picked up at the back of the school.