



Tracy C. Taylor, Principal

Tamara Oppenheimer, Assistant Principal

Principal's Coffee

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Ridge Street School Library

Coffee, Tea and Snack will be served!

Agenda

Welcome Back to School!

Meet Mrs. Oppenheimer, our new Assistant Principal

Principal's Coffee - What will these look like?

Ridge Street Blue Birds

What's New in our "Nests?" - Upcoming Activities and Events

Questions

*"Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all."*

— Emily Dickinson

Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School

390 North Ridge Street, Rye Brook, New York 10573

(914) 937-3600

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September Principal's Coffee Meeting Notes

This meeting started out as an introduction, but we managed to get to quite a few topics.

We met Mrs. Tami Oppenheimer! 😊

We discussed that the Principal's Coffees would flip back and forth between evenings and mornings. Minutes will be posted to the Ridge Street website. An agenda will be provided ahead of time and will be available on the website.

Here are the other programs/topics that we discussed:

Blue Bird Assemblies

All of our students will attend monthly assemblies to foster the Ridge Street Blue Bird Spirit. There will be a K-2 Assembly and a 3-5 Assembly. The first assembly (September) focused on what it means to be a Ridge Street Blue Bird and how we all strive to C.H.I.R.P. As a Ridge Street Blue Bird we expect the following:

- Be **C**ompassionate
- Be **H**onest
- Be **I**ndependent
- Be **R**espectful
- Be **P**ositive

Each grade level has its own Blue Bird posted in the hallway and we want to make sure that we fill it with blue feathers when we catch someone "chirping." Anyone can receive a feather and anyone can write on a feather when they see someone displaying a Ridge Street Blue Bird characteristic. We are looking forward to big, feathery blue birds. Also, on the flip side, if students are doing something that is not in the Blue Bird spirit, students will stop and think about which one of these characteristics they need to work on.

Each assembly will have a different theme and we are looking forward to October's assembly.



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IMPACT

The IMPACT Program is for students in Grades 3-5. All second graders take a test called the CoGat at the end of the year to see whether or not they qualify for the program. Mrs. Betsy Murphy leads the program and is more than willing to answer any questions about the test or test results. This year, for the first time, we are starting the second graders off with school-wide enrichment at the beginning of the year. Again, Mrs. Murphy will be working with the second graders in this model.

We realize that there are some students who would benefit from IMPACT and we will be taking a look at the program for different levels of entrance for next year.

More information is on the Ridge Street Website.

IST - Instructional Support Team

This is a team that meets to discuss any academic, social, or behavioral issues a child may have during the school year. This is very much like a Child Study Team, which is essentially the same concept. The classroom teacher informs the parents that they will be referring their child to IST. What's great about this process is that this a chance for the teacher to meet with the guidance counselor, school psychologist, speech and language teacher, occupational therapist, AIS teacher, and an administrator all at the same time. Recommendations are made and, of course, the parents are contacted so that they receive the information as well. A child's complete profile is discussed and his/her needs and services are determined based on any of the following: screenings, observations, and assessments. Sometimes the IST needs to contact the parents to receive additional information. A parent cannot initiate an IST meeting. Again, this is a process that begins with the classroom teacher. If you have any questions, you can always contact Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Oppenheimer, or your child's teacher.

AIS - Academic Intervention Services

This is a program designed for K-5 students who need additional literacy and mathematics support. Students enter this program through an IST referral. (Please see IST above.) Students who score a level 1 or 2 on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade NYS exams are automatically entered into the program without going through IST.

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Please understand that a parent cannot ask for their child to receive AIS. If you have any questions, you can always contact Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Oppenheimer, or your child's teacher.

HRE - HomeRoom Enrichment

Every child in the school has an HRE time for their grade level. This is a designated time where students leave the classroom to receive services (i.e.: AIS, speech, OT, Resource Room) or are involved in programs (i.e.: IMPACT, Band) that require time out of the classroom. When the students leave the classroom NO new material is introduced. The students in the classroom remain to work on projects, conference with teachers, or work in small groups. This is a perfect time for everyone to get the assistance they need without feeling like they are missing time away from class!

NEXT PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12th AT 8:45 AM IN THE RIDGE STREET SCHOOL CAFETERIA. It will last an hour.