Principal's Message

Dear Rolling Hills Family:

The past weeks have been filled with excitement and activity at Rolling Hills. We welcomed Commack Middle School students who celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday with our students and we continue to recognize our Stars at weekly Gatherings. Everyone enjoyed the outstanding music concerts and artwork at our Spring Showcases. We are now looking forward to upcoming Arts in Education programs, the PTA Gala, Field Day and the Moving Up Ceremony for second graders and their families.

Parents of second grade students visited Mandracchia-Sawmill Intermediate School to meet with the building administrators and to learn about the numerous programs and activities available to third grade students when they join the intermediate school community. Our second grade students also visited Mandracchia-Sawmill Intermediate School and enjoyed a tour of the building.

At this time of year, we are beginning to organize our classes for the next school year. Classroom teachers, special area teachers and members of our support staff are working closely with me to plan classes that promote positive social and academic growth for all our students. If you would like to share information that will be helpful in the placement process and if you prefer that siblings not be placed with the same teachers as their older brothers or sisters, please send a letter to my attention. If you have shared information previously, please send an updated letter to my attention again, this year. Please remember that it is considered inappropriate to request a specific teacher for your child.

We are looking forward to continuing to provide your child with support and encouragement to address this year’s program and to insure a smooth and successful transition and adjustment to a new school year.

With warmest regards,

Janet Studley
Janet Studley
Principal
The kindergarteners are very excited that spring is finally here! We have been discussing the changes that happen as the seasons change, and are eagerly looking for signs of spring. Although we enjoyed playing in the snow, we are looking forward to all of the wonderful and exciting things that we can do outdoors during spring.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day with a special LICAS presentation. The kindergarteners learned some things that five and six year olds can do to take care of our Earth. You can have your children help you reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Our science curriculum takes us on an exploration of our living environment. We will be learning about the lifecycle of a frog and the parts of a plant. We have our tanks all set up and are so excited about having tadpoles in our classrooms. We are looking forward to watching how they grow into frogs.

With Mother’s Day quickly approaching, the children will have the opportunity to shop for a beautiful plant at our PTA plant sale in May.

We are all looking forward to a beautiful warm spring, a fun and exciting time in kindergarten!

Spring has sprung! The First Graders have been enjoying the Living Things unit in science. As they learned about animal groups and food chains, they have been able to observe mealworms in the classroom. These creepy crawlies are the larva stage of a darkling beetle’s life cycle. Students will be planting seeds and learning about plant life, too. Our students have had the opportunity to participate in the LICAS programs, Tropical Rainforests and Build-A-Bug, in our classrooms thanks to our Arts in Education committee.

Author! Author! All the first grade authors will be writing Realistic Fiction stories. Students first read many mentor texts of stories with made up characters and settings that include problems that could happen in real life. Then they created their own characters and wrote their own stories. It is exciting to write and create!

Can somebody say, “Geography”? The first graders can since they will be engaged in this unit in social studies. Looking at maps and knowing the seven continents helps them understand more about where they live in the world. Students will also learn about natural resources and how we can preserve them. Remember, Earth Day is every day!
Spring is in the air! Second graders are currently learning about living and nonliving things in science and looking forward to discovering more about plants! As we step outside with our science notebooks, we will be recording many observations. Our “outdoor classroom”, the courtyard, will be one of our favorite stops. We will also release our ladybugs after we study the life cycle of these helpful insects!

In Social Studies, we are completing our geography unit and getting ready to learn about expenses and taxes in our economic unit. We also now understand the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling every day, not just on Earth Day!

Second graders are enjoying creative writing projects after learning about the differences among folktales, fables, and fairy tales. We are reading many classics, but also find the new adaptations to be just as interesting with their central messages. We are writing and illustrating our own tales and are looking forward to sharing these stories with our buddy classes. We are also enjoying the study of poetry while we experiment with many different styles in our own writing.

In math, we will continue to practice counting groups of bills and coins and are getting ready to explore fractions. We have strengthened our problem-solving skills this year and enjoy applying the skills cooperatively with our friends during math games!

We still have many wonderful experiences here to share at Rolling Hills these last few months. Time sure flies when you are having so much fun learning!

**Speech**

How was your day?
As parents eagerly wait for details from their child about his/her day at school, too often the response to the question, “How was your day?” is “Fine.” So, how can you encourage your child to provide some details about his or her day at school? First, start by sharing a detail about your own day. This provides the child with a model to imitate. The second step is to ask questions that prompt a conversation rather than a single word answer. Here are my favorite 7 - give them a try…

1- Tell me about the best part of your day.
2- What was the most difficult thing you had to do today?
3- Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
4- Tell me about a story you read (or was read to you) in class today.
5- Who did you sit with at lunch?
6- Who did you play with today at recess? What did you play?
7- What special did you have today? (If he/she cannot recall, give a choice, “Was it art or music?”)

Remember to model good pragmatic language skills for your child. Sit with him/her while you chat. Model good turn taking and eye contact. As parents, you are the first teachers and the best friends your child will ever have! Enjoy every minute!!

Trish Hall
Speech Language Pathologist
The kindergarten students in Ms. Cellana’s class are in the midst of creating colorful, patterned folk birds for the spring season. They began by viewing examples of folk birds by various artists before creating their own. The first grade students have been creating collages with beautifully patterned fish. The finished artwork will include a painted background, use of crayon resist on the fish, sea creature stamps as well as crepe paper seaweed. After these projects are complete all of Ms. Cellana’s students will be creating projects in clay.

Looking ahead, some of the Rolling Hills children will have artwork on display at the Festival of the Arts on May 15 at Commack Middle School.

The students in Ms. Tumminello's kindergarten class just read the book Pattern Fish by Trudy Harris. We are creating our own pattern fish by combining a variety of lines and shapes. We will then practice our collage skills (cutting and gluing) by creating suns to welcome warmer months. Second grade students are completing "healthy food" still-life drawings. We will then move on to a mixed-media painting inspired by artist Paul Klee.

**Home School Connection**

**Family Reading**

Suggestions for parents to keep in mind when reading to children:

- Read slowly enough for the children to build mental pictures of what they just heard you read.
- Preview the book by reading it to yourself ahead of time. Such advance reading allows you to spot material you may wish to shorten, eliminate or elaborate.
- Lead by example. Make sure your children see you reading for pleasure. Share your enthusiasm for whatever you are reading.
- Arrange for time for children to read by themselves, even if “reading” means turning pages and looking at pictures.

Adapted from *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease

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**Lost and Found**

If your child has misplaced an article of clothing, please stop by the Main Office to check the Lost and Found Box.
Weather Procedures and Information

Early Dismissal – Early closing procedures will be put into effect when it appears to be the safest way to get students home. The Superintendent of Schools makes this decision usually by noon. Each student will go to the home that you indicated on the Early Dismissal Card. Please contact your child’s teacher immediately if there is a change in the information you provided at the beginning of the school year.

Delayed Opening – A delayed opening procedure will be put into effect when it appears that school can open safely one or two hours later than the regularly scheduled time. Please note that on a day that we delay our opening, the lunch program and the dismissal time follow the usual schedule.

School Closings – School closings or delayed openings will be posted on the Commack Website, http://www.commannack.k12.ny.us. The District will endeavor to place an automated telephone call to each household with school aged children but cannot guarantee that all households will be reached.

*Please remind your children to wear their warm hats and gloves or mittens to school. We enjoy outdoor recreation as the weather allows.

Late Arrival and Early Departures
Late arrivals and early departures compromise your child’s instructional time, and consequently disrupt classroom routines. Please schedule appointments after 3:30 p.m. For unavoidable emergencies, please send a note to your child’s teacher to facilitate a safe, organized dismissal. Please remember, according to District policy, all early departures will be recorded for students who are picked up before 3:00 p.m.

School Bus Safety

During our bus drills, we reviewed safety guidelines with our students. Please review the following bus safety rules with your child:

- Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes before schedule.
- Keep arms and head inside the bus.
- Wait at the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop before boarding.
- Sit in the bus seat and refrain from shouting and making loud noises to assure that the bus driver is able to drive the bus safely.
- When exiting the bus, move directly to the curb.
- No eating or drinking is permitted on the bus.

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Teach your children wellness skills:

- Set a good example. Take stairs instead of elevators, and reach for fruits at snack time.
- Guide children to participate in a variety of physical activities. In addition to playing sports, take a nature hike or walk through a local park.
- Set limits for “screen” activities. Look for video games that include some physical activity.

Adapted from the “Top Health Newsletter”

A heartfelt thank you to:

Our Arts-in-Education committee for planning and supporting wonderful programs including, LICAS Go Green, LICAS Tropical Rainforest, LICAS Build-A-Bug, and DEC Reptiles as well as the AAA Bike Safely program.

Our Birthday Bulletin Board Committee for posting our birthday information in such a creative manner.

Our Yearbook Committee for photographing members of our Rolling Hills community throughout the year and creating an outstanding yearbook filled with wonderful memories.

Our Kindergarten Registration/Orientation Committee for helping to welcome students and families new to Rolling Hills.

Our Book Fair Committee for organizing a very professional display and guiding our students to choose a variety of books.

Our Box Tops Committee for monitoring our box tops donations and creating a beautiful bulletin board.

…and to the PTA President, Executive Board members, the Committee Chairpersons and to all our volunteers who help to enhance the educational program and make Rolling Hills a very special place for our children.

A special thank you to members of the Rolling Hills staff for your support and attendance at our PTA functions.
School-Based Management Team Members
2017 – 2018

Louis Cardinale               Support Staff
Lori Gary                         Teacher Representative
Jodie Hawkins               Parent Representative
Nancy Lopes                           Teacher Representative
Jen Neri               Teacher Representative
Laurie O’Grady               Parent Representative
Jill Piazza               Parent Representative
Jane Roman                           Teacher Representative
Jenn Ryan                           Teacher Representative
Janet Studley                       Principal

Upcoming SBMT Meeting Dates 2018   May 8, June 5

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Looking Ahead

5/23   9:30am Gathering Wear your RH spirit wear!
5/24   RH Health and Safety Committee meeting – Conference Room
5/25   Relay for Life at CHS 5:00pm – 5:00am
5/28   School Closed- Memorial Day
5/31   RH Gala and Golf Outing
       RH Field Day
6/6    District Wide Blood Drive at MSIS 1:00pm-7:00pm
6/12   6:30pm SEPTA Year End Dinner
6/13   RH Rain Date for
6/14   BOE Meeting at CHS

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Rolling Hills Primary School
Mission Statement

We are dedicated to providing a nurturing school environment that fosters respect, compassion and tolerance. It is our mission to guide our students to develop a positive self-image and become life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to their community.