

The Romona Rundown

This is a helpful list of terms Romona families, faculty and students use when talking about Romona programs and events!

AtoZ Directory

A to Z Directory: This is an online contact listing of all the students in Romona School, including phone and address information as well as classroom information. PTA Membership dues (\$25) are collected at the beginning of the school year and includes access to the online directory via computer or smartphone. The directory may not be used for any activity unrelated to the school.

Back-to School Parent Meet & Greet

During the first day of school, parents are invited to attend a coffee open house in the Romona Garden (or in the gym in case of rain) to see all the volunteer opportunities available (i.e., room parents, lunch helper, Learning Commons, multicultural committee, etc). RomonaWear will also be available for purchase so don't miss out on this popular event to catch up with old friends and meet new ones!

Benefit

The Romona Benefit, previously known as The Romona Red Gala, is an all-school parent party typically held in February each year and hosted by the Romona PTA. It is a time when Romona Parents can get together in the middle of the school year to socialize and have fun! It is also the biggest fundraiser of the year for the iGNITE fund. Money raised goes toward a large project to benefit our students (previous projects include a new garden path, the installation of the Learning Commons, etc.). All Romona parents are invited and encouraged to attend to support our school.

Bike-to-Highcrest Day

This is an annual event for 4th Graders that occurs after school hours toward the end of May, teaching students how to safely bike to/from Highcrest Middle School. Students will review the route to Highcrest, ride their bikes in teams (with parent volunteers) and be greeted by a Highcrest administrator at the bike racks. The purpose of this event is to teach the preferred bike route and review important bike safety information.

Bike Safety Training

2nd graders can bring their bike or scooter to school at this event usually held during a school day in May. They will participate in a rules-of-the-road bike safety training program in a mock road course set up on the playground blacktop. A representative from the Wilmette Police Department is on hand to illustrate the importance of bike safety. Bringing your bike is encouraged but optional, however all students should bring a bike helmet since helmet safety techniques will be demonstrated. Fourth grader students also do an in-class bike safety training on this day to refresh their skills and prepare them for biking to Highcrest the following year.

Birthday Books

Celebrate your child's birthday by purchasing a book for the Romona Learning Commons! The cost is around \$20 and your child will be able to choose which book he/she would like to donate during lunchtime of their birthday week. A personalized sticker will be placed inside the book to recognize their special selection for the Romona Learning Commons.

Book Fair

Our twice annual Book Fair offers parents and children a great selection of Scholastic books and gifts conveniently ready to purchase at school. Children create their own wish lists for parents to reference while shopping. Teachers also create classroom 'wish-lists'. This is an important school fundraiser each fall and spring. Money raised goes directly to PTA sponsored enrichment activities, which benefit all Romona children! A portion of the proceeds from our Spring Book Fair go to purchase books and other library items for our Sister School, West Elementary in Zion, IL.

Box Tops for Education

This is an easy, ongoing school fundraiser that everyone can participate in! Look for 'Box Top' labels on the sides of your favorite household products items (Ziploc, Land o' Lakes Butter, etc). Clip and save them on a sheet that will be sent home with your child throughout the year. Each label is worth 10 cents! When your sheet is full, send it back to school with your child to drop in the Box Top container in the lunchroom. The PTA will turn it in for you! Thanks in advance for helping our school raise money!

Cafeteria Volunteers

You can assist the cafeteria cooks by serving food to children going through the hot lunch line. It's a fun way to see your child and their friends. Cafeteria duty is from 11:15am-12:20pm. Arrive 10 minutes early to check in at the office then head down to the cafeteria to introduce yourself to the cooks, who will show you what to do.

Communications

Romona communicates with parents in two primary ways: the weekly principal email and the weekly PTA emailed newsletter. All school-wide communication is paperless, so all communication from the principal, teachers and room parents will be emailed. Ways to keep informed of Romona activities:

- Romona school website www.romona.wilmette39.org
- Romona PTA website www.romonapta.org
- Romona Elementary School Facebook group
- Parents of Romona Elementary School Facebook group (private - not sponsored by or affiliated with the Romona PTA)
- Romona Elementary School Twitter feed #RomonaROCKS

CRC - Community Review Committee

The CRC consists of parents, teachers, and administrators from District 39. These committee members study the needs and identify areas for improvement in the school system and report back to the PTA. Volunteers learn the inside operations of the school district. Meetings are held monthly in the evening. This is a two-year commitment.

Chess Club

Romona's Chess Club is a well-established and award-winning program. It is an after-school club for grades 1-4 that meets either in the cafeteria. Beginner and advanced students will learn/practice chess rules and strategies. Offered in fall, winter and spring sessions. Students also have the opportunity to compete in local and state competitions.

Class Picnics

Your child's class may have an outdoor end-of-year picnic. If so, you will need to send in a snack/lunch and a small blanket/towel. Usually scheduled in June.

Curriculum Night

This parent-only evening is held during the few weeks of the new school year. It is a great opportunity to hear directly from your child's teacher about the class curriculum, expectations and objectives for the upcoming year. You will attend a short meeting in the school auditorium and then break out into individual classrooms. See your child's classroom, meet school staff and hear about what your child will learn this year!

Daughter Dance

The annual Daughter Dance in April transforms the gym into a ballroom! Your child will enjoy dinner, dancing and fun games dressed in their best with their (and your) favorite partner! Her dance card will be filled and it's good silly fun to watch everyone cut a rug!

D39 Educational Foundation

The D39 (District 39, Wilmette Public Schools) Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization run by volunteers that helps get grants and resources for the entire Wilmette school community. Their popular community event fundraisers during each year include Trivia Night, Family Bingo Night, a fashion show and more! They administer programs such as Gripp Grants, Science Olympiad, the Distinguished Citizen Award. For more information check out their website at d39foundation.org

Entering School Property

District 39 continues to evaluate our safety procedures and has made some adjustments for when we have visitors. When you come to Romona, **you will need your driver's license each time you come into the building.** The secretaries will hold onto the driver's license while you are in the building and return it to you when you leave for the day. Our new procedures will be aligned with other schools in the area, including New Trier High School. Thank you for your help in keeping our students safe!

Early Release Days

Throughout the year there are several “Early Release Days”. These are days that allow teachers and staff to meet together and with others within the district for discussions and training. Dates that may have an Early Release Day include Halloween and spring Parent-Teacher conferences. On these days the typical time for dismissal is 11:55 am for Grades 1-4.

Enrichment

The Romona PTA funds a broad array of enrichment programs that augment classroom learning. These range from field trips to unique learning experiences in-class to school-wide assemblies. Funding comes exclusively from the Romona iGNITE fund and benefits ALL students. A \$100 per student donation at the beginning of the school year is encouraged but any amount is appreciated.

Environmental Awareness/Green Team

The Green Team encourages environmental awareness through fun activities during the year. In the spirit of Reduce/Reuse/ Recycle, the team organizes Earth Week activities, Waste-Free Days in the cafeteria, plans activities in the WELL Garden to honor the annual Earth Day in April and promotes increased recycling during school events.

Girls on the Run (GOTR)

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a wonderful and popular 10 week program for 3rd and 4th grade girls. The girls train for a celebratory 5k run through interactive lessons that encourage positive physical and social-emotional development. Volunteer coaches (usually Romona parents) are trained by the Girls on the Run organization and run 2 weekly 75 minutes practices which are held right after school at Romona. There is a fall season and a spring season. More information is here: <https://www.gotrchicago.org/Our-Programs>

Halloween Parade

Romona’s Halloween festivities include a costume parade out the front doors of the school and around the playground blacktop area to the back doors. Families and friends are invited to line the outdoor route to watch the parade of costumes by class. Take pictures and “ooh” and “ahh” at clever and cute costumes. Typically held in the late morning to just before the lunchtime bells. In rainy weather, the parade is held inside through the hallways for students and staff only.

iGNITE Fund

This is the fund that collects money for enrichment opportunities that benefit ALL students at Romona. The PTA collects a suggested amount per student (\$100 per child), but any donation is encouraged. The iGNITE fund pays for class field trips, visiting speakers, traveling displays/equipment and more! Every dollar donated goes directly to enrichment programming for all students.

International Festival

The Romona International Festival is our way of opening all of our minds to the beauty and treasures of the many cultures represented in the Romona Community. Each Spring our gym, auditorium and cafeteria are transformed into a festival of food tastings, a Parade of Nations, and cultural performances by our very own students! We invite families to create a cultural booth with a trifold poster representing your family's culture or history. Bring food, music, flags, maps, games, souvenirs – anything that can proudly showcase your culture!

Learning Commons Volunteer

Help the librarians re-shelve books and check out students' books during class visits to the Romona Learning Commons. Sign up as many times as you would like and even be able to volunteer during your child's class visit. It's fun to catch a glimpse of the children's excitement from being in the Learning Commons.

Lunch Clubs

Romona PTA offers students fun ways to spend their lunchtime during the winter months of January/February/March. From learning how to draw cartoons to learning the art of improv comedy, students can choose a variety of classes (i.e., Hebrew, Taekwondo, Kindness Club) for something fun and different.

Multicultural Potluck

The Romona Multicultural Potluck is an annual event in the Fall where families, teachers and staff from the Romona community gather together to enjoy delicious food from around the world - made by you! Come join us and celebrate our school community's rich diversity!

Music Programs

Each year, our music teacher creates a special musical performance for each grade level which parents are invited to attend. These are sprinkled throughout the year and are must-see events. Don't forget to bring your camera!

Mustang Activity Day

Held toward the end of the school year in May/June, Romona holds a day of running around and competition in outdoor games and activities for all grades. The popular Tug-of-War competition that pits class against class is a student favorite. Students will be assigned a specific color by class to wear on that day.

New Parent Orientation

New to District 39 Romona parents can attend a short evening orientation and tour of Romona before the first day of school. Meet the principal and other Romona parents/students while getting familiar with your new school. Welcome!

Open Gym Nights

This is the place to be for Romona students during the cold winter months! Children can burn off some of their energy by running around and playing games in the gym supervised by Romona staff. This is not a drop off, parents are required to stay with their children. Typically held once a week during January/February.

Open House

Students can bring their families to see their classrooms and show off their hard work at the Spring Open House. This evening event is a chance for your student to give you a personal tour through his/her classroom, "specials" rooms and other areas of school. You will have a chance to see classwork, say hello to your child's teachers and mingle with other other families.

Open Tech Nights

You will have two opportunities this year (during the cold months) to see first-hand the Learning Commons your student has been talking about. This engaging environment is part library, part computer lab, and part STEAM Lab/Maker Space. Your entire family can run STEAM experiments, code with BeeBots, create a marble run, and find a cozy place to read a story. It is a fun way to experience a treasured part of the school with your entire family!

Outdoor Ed

All 4th Graders go on an amazing trip for two nights/three days in the Northern Illinois woods during this entire 4th Grade event. Students learn science in its natural habitat while bunking with their peers in a dorm room. Their very own teachers and staff are the chaperones! Held in the fall of every year, it is a memorable way to begin 4th Grade!

Parent Parties

Sprinkled throughout the year and offered at the Romona Benefit, parents are given the opportunity to attend a "sign-up party". Some parties offered are activity-based (learn-to-braid, sushi-making, painting or paddle-tennis parties) and some are themed (Dad's BBQ, Moms Night Out, etc) but all are fun ways to get to know more Romona parents!

PASS39

The Parent Association for Student Services (PASS) in District 39 is a parent organization committed to supporting parents of children with learning, behavioral, emotional and developmental challenges. There's a Parent Handbook available with great resources. Parents nights out are planned as well as meetings with district staff covering relevant topics within D39 fostering ongoing communication between parents and D39. For more information or to be added to a private Facebook group, email pass39@wilmette39.org.

PTA

The Romona Parent Teacher Association is the parent organized group designed to enhance every Romona student's education experience. This is accomplished by offering many enrichment programs for all grades, supporting the faculty and staff and ensuring that the

building and grounds are as beautiful, safe and well-equipped to make Romona a wonderful place for learning and growing. General Board meetings are held three times a year in the evening. Please try to attend to know more about what's going on in your school!

PTA Website

Visit www.romonapta.org to keep up-to-date on information for all Romona activities from school calendars to open volunteer spots.

Picture Day

Picture Day is usually within the first couple weeks of school. Individual student portraits will be taken for the yearbook and will be available for online purchase. Picture retakes are offered three weeks afterwards for children who are absent or whose parents wish to have another portrait taken.

Rockin' Romona

Romona families kick off the new school year in September with Rockin' Romona. It is a fun outdoor party behind the school and on the playground that includes music and dancing, a Fun Run, and a special treat for students (in past years... an ice cream truck)! Families can bring a blanket and a picnic snack to enjoy while getting to know other Romona families.

Romona FriendRaiser (Romona on the Rocks)

This is a NEW parent-only party held in October designed to build community within the Romona family. Held at a local venue, parents can make new friends and catch up with old ones. Eat, socialize and meet more fellow Romona parents!

RomonaWear

A variety of Romona logo apparel is offered at a select few opportunities- the Back-to-School Parent Meet & Greet, Rockin' Romona, and the New Parent Orientation. It will be on sale online for a short time at the beginning of the school year. After that there aren't many opportunities to purchase gear, so get it while it lasts! Romona has "Spirit Days" every Friday and on special days throughout the year, where kids are encouraged to wear their RomonaWear or blue/white. You will want to be prepared and your kids will thank you!

Romona Review

This weekly electronic newsletter is emailed to Romona families by Principal Anderson on Thursday/Friday. It includes the following week's school events, important information as well as a short list of other upcoming events.

Room Parents

Room parents are recruited by the PTA at the start of each school year. These parents act as a liaison between the classroom parents and the PTA helping get the word out about PTA related events. They also coordinate volunteers for all celebrations in the classroom and any activities/field trips requested by the teacher.

SAC (Student Council)

The Student Advisory Committee is made up of selected third and fourth grade students who meet throughout the year to work on spirit day organization, school service projects, school store operations and team-building activities. Students help with displays, posters and making announcements to classes about upcoming events. Two students from each third and fourth grade class are chosen in September/October.

School Kits

Parents have the opportunity to purchase their child's school supplies in one easy transaction! Before the end of the school year, you can buy the following year's school supplies and have them waiting for your child in his/her classroom on the first day of school! No more running around going to five stores looking for that red plastic folder! The school kits vendor donates a portion of each purchase back to Romona, so help us raise money for our school, save yourself some time and effort and buy the box!

School Store

Every Friday, beginning in October, the SAC (Student Advisory Committee) opens up the "School Store" for business! On tables outside the cafeteria, small items such as pencils, notebooks, erasers, rules, etc. are available to purchase by students at very low prices (\$5 and less)! Students have fun shopping, selecting their treasures and paying for them all by themselves! SAC representatives help select items to sell, help peers shop on Fridays and accept and count payment for items. Money raised at Mustang Mart is put towards a SAC selected goal and donated at the end of the school year.

Shop and Earn

Raise money for our students by shopping at many local stores you probably already regularly shop at! Set up these shop and earn programs once, and these stores will donate a percentage of proceeds every time you spend. BoxTops, Amazon Smile, Heinen's Grocery Store Savings Card and MightyNest are programs that give back to our school. Refer to the Romona PTA website for further information - <http://romonapta.org/category/shop-earn/>.

Sister School

We are fortunate to be connected with a sister school, West Elementary, in Zion, IL, where our school community supports the needs of this northern suburban school. We work with the school to assess needs, which include donations of winter gear, books and school supplies. Our Sister School committee coordinates, sorts and delivers these donations to West Elementary. In addition to this, a portion of the proceeds from our Spring Book Fair go to purchase books and other library items for West Elementary as well.

SleepUnder

Your child can eat dinner and watch a movie with their friends in the Romona auditorium! From 6-8pm kids can have fun in their pajamas viewing some popular titles. Sign up early when you hear about this popular event!

Son Spring Fling

One of the best remedies for Spring Fever is the Son Spring Fling! This annual event gives you a chance to spend time tossing, jumping, dashing, running, and burning off energy! Of course, pizza will served. You will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of gym games, meet the kids your son is always talking about and catch up with the parents you pass at drop-off and pick-up. Get your game on and establish family bragging rights!

Spirit Days

The SAC (Student Advisory Committee) plans themed days throughout the year to generate school spirit. Students are encouraged to dress up (crazy hair day, hat day, etc.) and/or wear their RomonaWear to show their Mustang Pride!

Square One Art

An art project fundraiser in the Fall, using a fun and artistic program that not only allows children to be creative, but also provides a personalized product to offer as wonderful gifts. It offers the ability to have students' artwork easily transformed into a diverse selection of high quality custom products at reasonable prices. Every participant receives a free sheet of 20 large 2" square stickers.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Through this special week of activities, Romona families show how much they care about our staff and teachers. Look out for an email during Spring to sign up to bring items such as flowers and food to donate to the entire staff.

Teacherpalooza

A "lottery" of amazing events for your children created by a staff member at Romona and offered each Spring. Favorites in the past have included a Cubs game, ice cream with your teacher, pizza parties and soccer games or a scavenger hunt with the principal. You can buy as many \$5 tickets for as many events as you want, each ticket is one chance for your child's name to be drawn.

WELL Garden

The World Environments Learning Laboratory (WELL) Garden is an innovative learning space in Romona's courtyard which celebrates and honors the incredible diversity of our school. Our Garden features six continent-shaped garden beds planted with a variety of edibles, annuals, perennials, evergreen and deciduous plants related to a specific ecosystem of each continent. It also features two accessible raised beds in the patio area, a rain garden to address water issues, composting, and a raised bed along the east wall for grade level curriculum

differentiation projects. Parent volunteers supervise students during their lunch recess on WELL Fridays each fall and spring.

Yearbook

The PTA yearbook committee shares the responsibilities of taking pictures, publishing and distributing the yearbook. Yearbooks are ordered in the winter and delivered at the end of the year. Volunteers have the satisfaction of knowing they are producing treasured mementos. Everyone may submit photographs for the yearbook via <http://romonapta.org/category/yearbook/>.