



## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Board Chair: John Van Heck  
Trustee: Michelle Parks / Linda Ward



## Week at a Glance for Families

February 29, 2016

Dear Families,

You can also find this Week at a Glance for Families and all previous WAAGS and Newsletters on the school website at <http://www.st-clair.net/SHS/news.aspx> and on our school TWITTER site: @shs49ers. Thanks!

### Monday, February 29

- Monday Liturgy - 12:20pm
- **Senior Girls Basketball CHAMPIONSHIP game at St. Patrick Secondary School @ 7pm**

### Tuesday, March 1

- GODSPELL - AFTER SCHOOL rehearsal 3:05 to 5pm (all cast)

### Wednesday, March 2

- GODSPELL rehearsal at lunch hour
- **Parent Council meeting 6:30pm in the school library.**

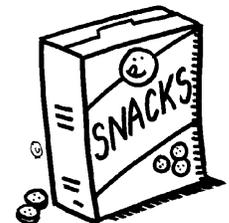
### Thursday, March 3

- POPCORN day

### Friday, March 4

- POPCORN day
- GODSPELL rehearsal at lunch hour

**Announcements:** The snack program works well at Sacred Heart for students who need to supplement their nutrition during the day. We are running low on our donations to the snack program. If you are able to provide donations to our school snack program, it would be greatly appreciated. Any donations of boxes of cereal, granola bars, juice boxes, apple sauce or fruit cups (nut and peanut free) would be greatly appreciated!



**Attachments:** **Four Top Literacy Tips for Parents**

*Have a great weekend!*



## Four Top Literacy Tips for Parents

### TIP ONE TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

“Learning is a result of listening, which in turn leads to even better listening and attentiveness to the other person. In other words, to learn from the child, we must have empathy, and empathy grows as we learn.” **Alice Miller, 2002** (*For Your Own Good*)

It may seem obvious, but it is as important to listen to as to talk with your child. Children develop the skills for reading and writing through both talking and listening. You help your child learn about how words work when you:

- Sound out letters in print, such as signs on the street
- Sing word games in which your child replaces beginning sounds to make new, funny words
- Invent spelling by using the letters your child knows to spell new words

Talk also builds your child’s capacity for understanding new things. This kind of talk goes beyond telling your child something (such as, “It’s time to brush your teeth,” or “Wash your hands before dinner”) to having a conversation with him or her. Here are some ways to get this kind of talk going in your home:

• **Talk with your child about problems and solutions.** Talk about how you might manage day-to-day problems, such as finding time to make dinner, so that you will be ready to watch a favourite TV show or go online together.

• **Make sure your child has time to think.** It sometimes takes time to think of what to say next. Be ready to wait for what your child has to say. If he or she says, “I don’t know what I think,” wait for a better answer – there’s one in there somewhere!

• **Talk with your child in his or her first language.** Children transfer their knowledge of one language to another very well. Speaking in your first language will help your child with English and French and other languages as well. It will also give your child opportunities to learn more about his or her own cultural history.

• **Ask questions that will lead your child to talk about his or her ideas.**

Instead of telling your child something, try to ask a question that will lead your child to talk about what he or she thinks. For example, instead of telling your child how you are planning to celebrate a family event, ask for ideas about making a plan. (Be ready for creativity and to help your child follow through with the plan!)

It is very important both to listen to children read aloud and to continue to read to them even after they become independent, fluent readers. There are many different ways of reading together: taking turns reading pages, reading in unison and stopping to talk throughout the reading. Children choose books about topics that interest them, and your interest in the same books will lead to rich conversations that will build talking and listening skills.

**If you’re stuck, here are some “talk starters” to get your conversation going:**

- What did you notice about ...
- What else could you have done ...
- What would you do if ...
- What would happen if ...
- How do you know that?
- Convince me about that!

**As you are listening**

- If it’s a book being read, show your child that you are enjoying the book by being curious and asking questions
- Make connections to what he or she already knows.
- Rephrase what you are hearing.
- Be patient. Make sure your child has enough time to figure out tricky words.

After reading, talk about interesting and puzzling parts of the book

