



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Week at a Glance for Families

March 28, 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.

Monday, March 28

- EASTER MONDAY - (no school today)

Tuesday, March 29

- No Godspell rehearsal tonight
- Junior Girls Basketball **AWAY** game vs. St. Michael School Bright's Grove @ 3:00pm

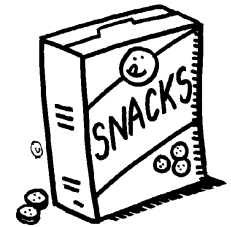
Wednesday, March 30

Thursday, March 31

- Junior Boys Basketball **HOME** game vs. St. Anne School @ 3:15pm

Friday, April 1

DONATIONS for Snack Program: We are need of donations for our school snack program. Any donations of boxes of cereal, granola bars, juice boxes, apple sauce or fruit cups (nut and peanut free) would be greatly appreciated!



FOOD FORMS: Food Forms were sent home on Thursday, March 24. If you didn't receive one, please let the office know. Deadline for orders is Thursday, April 14th.

Attachments: Four Top Literacy Tips for Parents

Have a Great Weekend



TIP FOUR MAKE IT FUN, MAKE IT MATTER

...make [reading] fun. It shouldn't be like homework. Make reading entertaining – make funny sounds and act it out together – kids really like that! **Robert Munsch, 2005** "A Moment with Munsch"

Cracking the Code

When children enjoy reading, they read a lot. And in reading a lot, they become good readers. They also read to understand things and to learn more about themselves and the world. (Or maybe they're motivated to read up on that video game they're stuck on!) They don't get bogged down by the mechanics of language because they have cracked its code. At that moment, a whole new world opens up for your child.

Choose what you're going to read together:

- Look online for ideas, perhaps based on themes that interest your child.
- Make a trip to the library or bookstore to browse for titles.

Choose all kinds of books, all kinds of reading material:

- All kinds of non-fiction – perhaps early reader books about Canada or other places in the world, wild animals or dinosaurs
- Books or articles that contain positive or powerful ideas about the world
- All kinds of fiction – action, fantasy, science fiction, funny stories
- Stories that reflect how they see themselves: adventurer, hero, princess, animal lover (early veterinarian in the making!), detective, caregiver and more
- Books in a series (children like to identify with familiar characters)
- Newspapers, magazines, e-subscriptions
- Comic books and graphic novels, cartoons, jokes, baseball cards, game scores, brain teasers
- Song lyrics or scripts that appeal to their musical and artistic tastes

Make the story come alive:

- Use different voices for different characters in a story.
- Use your child's name instead of a character's name whenever it appears in the story.
- Compare characters in the story with people you both know. Talk about what they have in common with real people.
- Make puppets and use them to act out the story.
- Encourage your child to draw or paint characters and scenarios. Talk about the idea that "every picture tells a story."
- Reread your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them.

Make it relevant:

- Help your child understand that most stories express a particular point of view or perspective. (You could talk about how the story would change if one of the other characters was telling it.)
- Check for respect and social and cultural fairness in the story. Are characters in the story represented fairly?
- Talk about why the author might have written the story, especially if the story conveys a social message.
- Explore different opinions about things going on in the world by looking at letters to the editor, editorials and columns in the newspaper.

EXPECT THE BEST OF YOUR CHILD

We hope you have found this guide helpful in supporting your child on the exciting journey to reading fluently and writing clearly. With high expectations, patience and thoughtful interaction, your child will blossom into a reader and writer.

Partnering with your child's teacher to support reading and writing at home is one of the most powerful choices you can make for your child's future. University of Toronto professor and author Jim Cummins says we can support children to learn in four key ways:

1. When we make learning social and interactive
2. When we ask questions and explore the answers in depth together
3. When we encourage choice, give them opportunities to grow and let them establish their own voice
4. When we encourage them to question and take risks (while keeping them safe)

While expecting the best for your child:

1. Praise successes.
2. Don't dwell on mistakes.
3. Encourage your child to ask a teacher for help.
4. Help your child keep track of how he or she is doing.

