

# SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

## School newsletter inserts for your consideration

### ELEMENTARY

#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

**Parent engagement matters.** Study after study has shown that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education, and that good schools become even better schools when parents are involved. It is recognized that parent engagement is a key factor in the enhancement of student achievement and well-being.

Students are more likely to be motivated, to earn higher grades, to have better behaviour and social skills, and to continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

It is equally important to recognize that parent involvement takes many forms.

- Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees (PICs)
- Volunteering for field trips and school activities
- Making sure there is a quiet place set aside to do homework
- Helping with the homework
- Meeting with the teachers
- Talking to your child about their day at school.

These are all examples of engaged parents. They are all contributing to their children's education. To make it easier for parents to get involved, government funding is available to encourage parent involvement. Find out more about parent involvement in schools at: Parents Reaching out Grants, <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html>

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING: ENGAGING PARENTS, 30 03 2011. 08 11 2011 <[HTTP://WWW.EDU.GOV.ON.CA/ENG/PARENTS/INVOLVEMENT/INDEX.HTML](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/INVOLVEMENT/INDEX.HTML)>.



#### TOP 10 TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH MATH

1. **Connect math to daily life** – Let them know the importance of math! Talk about how you use math in your day-to-day life (at the store, in your job, around the house).
2. **Counting can be fun and entertaining** – Show them math can be fun! Sing songs (One, Two, Buckle my Shoe) and play games (card games, hopscotch, board games, Dominoes, chess).
3. **Start Easy and Work up!** – For example, after they've got counting by 1s, talk about skip counting and count by 2s, then 5s and 10s. Don't jump ahead too fast.
4. **Use household items for practice** – Practise adding and subtracting with objects from the house like spoons or pots and pans.
5. **Tap into your child's curiosity** – Go on a number hunt in your house.
6. **Talk about time** – Talk about seconds, minutes and hours, then count days and weeks. Ask them questions: How long until bedtime? How many "sleeps" until the weekend?
7. **Practice mental math using coins** – Count money or have them show you how much an item costs and practise making change for when they're at the store.
8. **Play the estimating game** – Estimate measurements, distances, time and grocery bills and then compare to the actual.
9. **Sports and math** – There is a lot of math in sports such as batting averages, points per game and save percentages (discuss these as you watch the games or read the newspaper).
10. **Computers + Math = Fun** (there are lots of great computer games available to explore math).

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH READING AT HOME

When reading a book for pleasure or for information, chances are you will come to a word or two you are unsure of. You probably will use the accuracy strategy of **cross checking** without even thinking about it, because it is second nature to you as a reader to read accurately. Accuracy, is not second nature to children learning to read. It is something that needs to be taught using a variety of strategies.

It is important to slow readers down when they come to a word they don't know and teach them to apply the strategy of **cross checking** so they are able to fix the meaning and not just skip the word. **Cross checking** requires a person to constantly think and monitor meaning. It is a strategy for ensuring the words and pictures read make sense and match the letters on a page.



### HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THIS STRATEGY AT HOME?

1. Listen to your child read. When they come to a word they are unsure of, remind them to cross check. Ask:
  - Does the word you are reading match the picture or letters written? (they cross their right arm over their body)
  - Does it sound right? (their left arm crosses over their body making an X)
  - Does it make sense? (both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground)
  - \* Doing physical movements with each question helps children to remember the questions.
2. If your child is having difficulty with this strategy at home, break down the process:
  - Have them stop reading when meaning breaks down.
  - Tell them to look at the letters and say the sounds or look for word chunks in words.
  - Remind them to use the pictures to help.
3. To make your child aware of using this strategy, give them a piece of paper and tell them to make a tally mark each time they use the **cross checking** strategy.

*Thank you for your continued support at home!*

THE CAFE BOOK, WRITTEN BY GAIL BOUSHEY & JOAN MOSER

## ECO-CORNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: DSBN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### NORTH AMERICAN HOLIDAY BY THE NUMBERS

- 2.65 billion holiday cards were sold last year (would fill a football field 10 stories tall)
- 200,000: trees are cut down to make all those holiday cards.
- 4 million tons of landfill each year produced from shopping bags and gift wrapping.
- 50 million evergreen trees and about 30 million go to landfill.
- 40% of all battery purchases are made during this season and many are improperly disposed in regular landfill sites.



### TIPS TO ENJOYING A SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY THIS YEAR

- Buy a smaller potted evergreen tree and plant the following spring
- Send electronic greeting cards if possible or reuse cards that you have received.
- Use reusable bags and creatively reduce the amount of wrapping paper by giving gifts inside of reusable containers or bags
- Prepare only an appropriate amount of food for your gathering to reduce waste....consider providing some of the extra food items to local community food banks instead.
- RE-THINK your plans with a new fun – creative tradition to reduce consumption and waste.

*The DSNB Environmental Sustainability committee wishes all students, families and staff to enjoy a sustainable holiday season with family and friends and encourages you to possibly make a couple of new traditions that result in a more sustainable celebration*

Check out the following websites for tips/resources:

<http://1st-ecofriendlyplanet.com/12/christmas-waste/>

[http://www.nigelsecostore.com/acatalog/Green\\_Christmas.html](http://www.nigelsecostore.com/acatalog/Green_Christmas.html)

<http://www.greenandeasy.co.uk/information/Christmas.aspx>

<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>