



the CREEK CHRONICLE

Sturgeon Creek School Newsletter

Volume 4 December 2017

From the Principal's Desk ...

It is hard to believe we are already in December and knocking on the door to Christmas Holidays! November came and went in a blur. Progress reports went home and we conducted parent-teacher interviews. Please remember that if you ever have a question or concern regarding your child, please contact your son/daughter's teacher. Now we are preparing for the Christmas Concert. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Have a safe and happy holiday and enjoy time with your family. All the best to you in 2018!

Shane

THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU...

- ⇒ Student Council for planning events and helping with assemblies
- ⇒ **Everyone who participated in the Mom's Pantry fundraiser; we sold over \$7000!**
- ⇒ Hot lunch volunteers
- ⇒ Coaches of the volleyball teams - Mr. Kinsman, Mrs. Walter
- ⇒ All staff for their work with the anti-bullying week

Christmas Concert - Friday, December 15th at 7pm

DVDs will be available again for \$25 but you must let Mrs. Pollard know by December 13th. You can also order through school cash online.

WHY IS REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

Students must attend school REGULARLY to achieve in the classroom. Parents who make regular school attendance a top priority help their children become dependable and responsible. The importance of being in school EVERY SCHOOL DAY applies to students at all Grade levels. **Children in the primary grades (JK through third) should set a pattern of regular attendance early in their school careers. The habit will carry over through high school and beyond.**

BEING ABSENT FROM SCHOOL HURTS THE STUDENT

Data shows that students who do not attend school regularly achieve at a lower level than their classmates. **Poor school attendance is the most frequently identified symptom of the potential school dropout. The average absence rate of those students who are "on track" to graduate with their classmates is 8 days or less during a whole school year.** On the average, students who are absent 1 ½ days per month (15 days in a school year) or more ARE NOT on track to graduate with their classmates regardless of grade level.

Make it a priority to ensure your children attend school every school day - their future depends on it!

For further information please contact the School Attendance Counsellor:

Kellie Whalen 274-7747 ext. 262 or
275-8298 (call or text)

Character in Action

December is **Empathy/Compassion** month. We strive to sense and appreciate the emotions of others, to "stand in their shoes". We demonstrate appreciation of and concern for their feelings. We try to understand issues from their perspectives even though we may not agree with them personally. The act of compassion is seeking to understand another's struggles from his or her point of view and then doing whatever is necessary to heal the hurt.

Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.
Scott Adams

Christmas Dinner - Thursday, December 21st

Free to SCS students and preschool children and \$5 for guests
11:30 Christmas Caroling
12:00 Dinner

Please let Mrs. Pollard know by December 14th if you wish to attend.

Library News

Thanks to all the students, staff and parents, for another very successful Book Fair. We had a lot of fun dressing up for this year's western theme. Total sales were \$2,351.90 which enabled us to lasso in 103 new books for the library. We hope to continue with a new theme each year. Thanks again!

Grace Hettinga, SCS Librarian

It takes a village to raise a child.

This African proverb says it all. Sturgeon Creek School would like to **extend our sincere appreciation** to all the members of our school community who help kids in so many different ways - student, staff and parent volunteers, bus drivers, community services and local/district businesses.



Merry Christmas!

WAITING AT THE BUS STOP IN THE WINTER

- Wear appropriate clothing for the winter weather. Avoid clothes or bags with drawstrings. The drawstring could get caught in the handrail or on a seat and cause a fall. Drawstrings can also be a major choking hazard while waiting for the bus, and riding to/from school
- Respect the property where students will be waiting
- Wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop before proceeding to board the bus.
- Wait for the bus on the sidewalk, in a single file line
- Do not push or shove anyone at the bus stop

INCLEMENT WEATHER

It is safe to say that winter is here. As the temperatures begin to drop, snow begins to fall we must ensure that everyone is educated on the inclement weather tips provided by the RRDTSC. Use the following tips to keep yourself informed during inclement weather this winter!

- * Listen to area radio stations, all information regarding transportation status will be broadcasted on the radio stations or visit the RRDTSC website @ <http://rrdtsc.rrdsb.com>
- * If your student(s) school bus is cancelled for the day, this decision remains in effect for the school day. Buses will not operate in the afternoon
- * Make sure you are aware of your students Bus ID for both AM & PM as they may differ from one another.
- * Use the barcode to scan with your smartphone and get instant updates on school bus delays & cancellations throughout our district for the day.
- * Bus Delays will only be posted if a bus is running 15 minutes late or more. Any delay under 15 minutes will not be posted.
- * **Parents are ultimately responsible to make the final decisions about whether or not their child should go to school on the morning of inclement weather**

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Caregiver Corner

Top 7 Tips to Help Your Child With Math

1. **Do some confidence-building exercises:**
It's important to make all kids feel capable in math. Try engaging your child in some confidence building exercises. For instance, have them add together two numbers that are 3 or 4 digits long, but only require regrouping (formerly called 'carrying' a number) with the digit in the 'ones' column. For example, $1425 + 4265$.
2. **Make sure your kids know their 'number facts':**
It turns out knowing the basics, such as which pairs of numbers add up to 5 and the multiplication tables, is more important than some have thought in recent years. A child who doesn't remember the basics will always feel overwhelmed and won't be able to see patterns or make predictions.
3. **Use 'manipulatives' to bring math off the page:**
Use household items to help explain concepts, such as using beads to reinforce understanding of grouping in multiplication and division. Help them to touch and feel the numbers, shapes, all of it.
4. **Get the kids involved in the math of life:**
Give your kids money to pay for things, count out the change, and learn the basics of how money works. Also, get your kids involved in measuring things in the kitchen while cooking.
5. **Make math a game whenever possible:**
Play card games with your child. Play the Go Fish card game. Play Snakes and Ladders with your younger child. You can make card games more challenging as the child progresses by doing things like having the child ask for a number from the other player that adds up to ten when put together with a card already in the child's hand.
6. **Make sure they master each level:**
Make sure your child feels confident at each level of difficulty before moving on to the next step. Feeling a sense of mastery is critical at each stage. If your child has been struggling with math, go back to the level at which he or she last felt confident and work up from there.
7. **Remember all kids can be 'math prodigies':**
Challenge the idea that some people are good at math and others aren't. Every child is an untapped math prodigy. When kids think they are not talented at something, their brains turn off.