



The Storrington Star March/April 2012



LEARNING GOALS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

You may have heard your child talk about his or her learning goals and what success criteria they've accomplished.

In every class, the teacher establishes learning goals - what the students are going to learn - and the teacher and students go through the goals using language that the students understand.

The teachers and students then write success criteria - what the students need to accomplish so they show they've learned the goal.

For instance, the learning goal could be "To be able to write an autobiography". Depending on student input, the success criteria might be: 1. Use first person. 2. Include your feelings. 3. Add complex sentences. 4. Include an introduction that hooks the reader. 5. Include adventurous language. 6. Include at least one simile. 7. Interest the reader by adding as much detail as possible.

Students know what is expected, can track their own progress and consult with the teacher and others to monitor their own learning and improve their work.

Ask your child what their learning goal was for the day, and how they are doing in meeting the success criteria. When you're in the school, look at the bulletin boards out in the hall - there are many examples of learning goals and student work displayed!

BALANCED DAY

While our school day start and end times will be the same, we are considering changing our recesses/nutrition breaks to a more balanced day next year.

The change will be that, instead of two short recesses and one long lunch hour, we are proposing dividing the day into three 100 minute blocks separated by two 40 minute breaks through the day. The advantages to this are that there are longer periods so students can continue learning uninterrupted; there is less time spent getting dressed and undressed for recesses; and our gym is available for two long periods a day to accommodate more students using it for practices and intramurals.

Our neighbouring schools have a balanced day - you may have heard friends and neighbours talking about it. At our next School Council meeting on April 11, we will be having both the School council Chairs and the Principal from Perth Road Public School to answer any questions you may have about what a balanced day is.

ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

We're looking forward to an exciting month coming up!

This year, we will be celebrating Literacy Week from April 23th to April 27th. Starting the week after March Break, we will begin our "How Far Can We Go?" programme by sending home reading tickets for each student. For every 15 minutes of reading that either a parent reads to their child or that the child reads, parents sign the ticket and return it to school. Every ticket will represent one kilometre, and we're going to see if we can read our way across Canada! We're eagerly anticipating how far these 'reading kilometres' will take us.

During Literacy Week itself, we will be having a variety of activities such as "Dress like your favourite character" day, 'Snuggle Up and Read" day, 'Guest Reader' day and other fun events to celebrate reading. We are also thrilled that Sharon McKay, a Canadian children's author, will be visiting and doing workshops about the writing process with the students. More information will be sent out later.

The focus this term is working on communication in math. Teachers will be working collaboratively in each others' classes to develop strategies for students to demonstrate their thinking and problem-solving ability in math using words, numbers or pictures. We are also continuing our work with students developing reading fluency.

We just finished our basketball season with impressive results by our teams over this term. What wonderful teamwork and sportsmanship our students have! No matter what the sport or event, it never fails that our students are complemented on their behaviour and respectfulness. We're all very proud of their citizenship - what great ambassadors for Storrington!

Thanks to all of you for your support and help. It's a privilege working in partnership with you!

Sue Perry and Ean Pattison

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

It is Kindergarten registration time again. If you have a child or know of a child that will turn 4 by December 31, 2012 please come into our school as soon as possible and register for kindergarten!

CELL PHONES, IPODS AND ELECTRONICS

This is a reminder that all cell phones, electronic audio/video equipment and games should be kept at home as we do not have the facilities to ensure their safekeeping nor can we take responsibility for any damage or loss. Students may not take pictures or videos at school. Cell phones must be left at home unless arrangements have been made with the school.

While we realize some students bring electronics with them as they have very long bus rides, we would like to remind everyone that all electronics should be stored in backpacks upon arrival at school and not be taken out until the student boards the bus.

If a student is using any electronics through the day, it will be taken and held at the office until the end of the day.

“Do You Need A Family Doctor?”

HEALTH CARE CONNECT

Health Care Connect is designed to help you find a family health care provider.

Getting Started

Health Care Connect (the program) helps people without a family health care provider find one. You may want to consider registering for the program if: You are actively looking for a regular provider for ongoing family health care needs; You have a valid OHIP card (if you do not, you may contact Service Ontario INFO line 1-866-532-3161 where someone can assist you with this); You are not currently enrolled with a family health care provider according to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care records (i.e. you have not signed a Ministry enrolment and consent form).

To register with the program, simply call 1-800-445-1822. You will need a pen, some paper and your OHIP card when you call Health Care Connect. You can also register for Health Care Connect online by entering your information at www.ontario.ca/healthcareconnect

How the Program Works

Health Care Connect helps you in your search for a family health care provider. How does the program do this? A health information questionnaire will be administered to you when you register for the program to determine your level of need for a family health care provider.

This health information and your contact information will be given to a nurse in your community, called a Care Connector, who is assigned by the program to help you in your search for a provider.

Your Care Connector will attempt to find a family health care provider for you by:

reviewing the health information you provided when you registered with the program

contacting you with additional questions, if needed

working with local family health care providers to determine who may be accepting new patients in your community.

READING-THE HOME SCHOOL CONNECTION

Do you want to know more about what ‘chunking’ means? Or reading fluency? If you’ve heard your child come home with these words and you’d like to know more about them, or learn more about what you can do at home to help your child become a better reader, you are invited to a Reading Night for Parents at 6:30 p.m. on April 2 at the school. Our Board Literacy Consultant, Charlene Homer will be leading us through how we can help strengthen our home-school literacy work. Please let the school know if you will need child care that night.

MARK THESE DATES!

March 30 - K Pare, Coleman - swimming

April 2 - 6:30 p.m. - Reading with Your Child - Charlene Homer

April 4, 11, 18 - Grade 3 Swim to Survive

April 11 - 6:30 - School Council meeting

April 12 - Grade 7/8 - Teens Trashing Tobacco

April 23, 24 - Dental Screening Grades K - 2

April 25 - Grade 7/8 Girls immunization

May 1 - Grad photos

June 25 - Grade 8 Graduation