

Montgomery Elementary School Newsletter

Friday, November 7, 2008

JUNIOR GARDENERS will meet next Monday, November 10th from 3 to 4 p.m. The next meeting will take place in the spring.

BALLET has been cancelled for Wed., Nov. 12th and re-scheduled for Thurs., Nov. 20th.

CHEERLEADERS will practice 3 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays from now on.

BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the school library beginning Monday, Nov. 10th.

Book Fair hours:

Monday - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday - 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Wednesday - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8 to 9 a.m. & 3 to 4 p.m.

The PTCO (Parent-Teacher-Community Organization) will meet at school on Monday, November 17th at 3:15 p.m. New members are invited to attend!

Your PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE can show you where the teacher plans to take your child this year, and how he or she plans to get there. You may find asking these questions helpful: What skills will my child be expected to master this year? How will you evaluate my child's progress? What can I do at home to help? What is the best way for us to communicate? - *Elementary School Parents make the difference! Vol. 20, Oct. 2008, p.1*

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES are being scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th, between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. Please call to set up an appointment. Other dates and times may be available upon request. Report Cards will go home Friday, Nov. 14th.

SHAKESPEARE TRY-OUTS (5th-8th) with Ms. Z take place Monday and Tuesday, November 17th & 18th after school until 5:30 p.m. Students will sign up for a time to audition.

A First Qtr. Perfect Attendance / Honor Roll / Character Ed. / SOCCKER / and "FISH" Awards Assembly takes place Thurs., Nov. 20th at 9 am. Note that written invitations will only be sent for "FISH" and Character Education awards. Please check report cards for Honor Roll and attendance information for your child.

The 7th & 8th Grade Basketball team practices:
Girls - M - F from 3 to 5 p.m.

Boys - M - TH from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

First game - HOME - Tues, Nov. 18th

*CHANGE: TH, Nov. 20 at MVU - now 6pm

SHOUT IT OUT! will be shown at the Opera House in Enosburg on Wed. Nov. 12th at 7 p.m. This is a film about teenagers, written and produced in Vermont, addressing serious issues that teens face today. Donations will be accepted at the door to help defray costs. Please call 933-2988 with any questions.

Enosburg OVX (our voices exposed) presents Open Mic at the Flying Disk in Enosburg Falls on Thursday, November 13th from 6 to 8 p.m. Show off your talents or just enjoy the show! OVX is dedicated to researching/ stopping the use of tobacco products in the media.

We are offering Entertainment® to raise money for field trips. Books cost \$30 and our school makes \$15 from each sale. Offer ends December 1st.

FREE Developmental Screening - The FNESU Early Childhood Program will be offering a screening for children ages 3 to 5 years, on December 5, 2008, at our school. You must call to schedule an appointment. Please contact Cindy in Enosburg at 933-7705.

We had a typo on the November menu - student lunch is \$1.60, not \$2.60!

NO SCHOOL for students Thanksgiving week!

Have a great weekend!



REPORT to PARENTS

RP 32:2

Effective and Appropriate Help With Homework

Parenting requires many judgment calls, including numerous decisions related to schoolwork and school projects. Principals and teachers are always stressing how important it is for parents to be involved, but how much is too much? For a start, put yourself in these situations:

- Your child's big science project is due tomorrow, but her after-school schedule has been so busy lately that she hasn't had time to finish it herself. Not wanting her to get a bad grade, you end up doing most of the work with her so she can turn it in on time.
- Your son's math homework packet is a big part of his grade, but he's having trouble with a few of the concepts. Is it OK to help him with some of the answers?
- Your daughter must write a poem for a school competition, but the verses she's come up with so far seem pretty bad. After thinking about her theme, you suggest different rhyming phrases that sound better. When the awards are announced, your daughter comes home excited and says, "We won!"

We all want our children to do well in school. But, sometimes, we might want it too much and end up giving them too much assistance. The problem is, while their grades might look stellar, their self-esteem can suffer. Children are smarter than we sometimes give them credit for. They know when they've earned a grade—and when they haven't. Instead of helping them succeed, too much parental involvement can lead them to failure.

So what's a concerned parent to do? How much help is reasonable? What kinds of suggestions or assistance are acceptable? And what do you do if they don't understand their homework, even after asking you for guidance?

Don't do it for them. Rule No. 1 is an easy one to remember: Don't ever do your children's homework or school projects for

them. The assignments were given to them for a reason—they need to learn the concepts, and they can't do that learning if you do their work.

Guidance is great. Help your children understand assignments by talking with them about the concepts. Let's say your child is having trouble with basic division. Dump out a stack of pennies or paper clips, count the total, and, together, divide them into groups of five, six, or seven. If your child has writer's block, instead of suggesting phrases to use, brainstorm together about ideas of things he or she could write about, and ask your child to list some of the things he or she could say. Help your children to learn how to think through the process.



Be encouraging. It can be frustrating to try to master new concepts and complete school projects. Give your children encouragement and understanding as they work things through.

Expand their brains. One great way parents can help their children with school projects is by asking them to go beyond their original ideas. If your son, for example, wants to do a shoebox diorama about dinosaurs, tell him that his original idea is good, but ask

what other ways he could try. Don't give him ideas, but help him use his own creativity. Ask him to think out a number of different ways he could approach the assignment. Let him follow his own path, and both you and his teacher will probably be very pleased with the result. Not only that, the work will be his own.

Finally, know when to call for help. If your child is consistently having trouble with a specific concept, even after you've helped explain it to him or her, it's time to let the teacher know. Chances are yours isn't the only child in the class who's confused. In addition to learning the schoolwork, your child will gain some very important knowledge: that it's smart to ask for help when you don't understand something.