

SHCPS Weekly Newsletter

September 18, 2009

Hope is our Core Value for September.

Save the Date:	
Sept. 19: Show Choir at DCU Center 6:30PM	Oct. 6: Board of Trustee Meeting 6:00 PM
Sept. 21: After School Activities Begin This Week	Oct. 7: Grade 1 to Southwick Zoo
Sept. 22: SAC and Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meetings 6:00PM	Oct. 8: Grade 3 to Plimouth Plantation
Sept. 24: Circus Science Assemblies K-5	Oct. 9, 12: NO SCHOOL
Sept. 25: Grade 7 Fieldtrip to Purgatory Chasm	Oct. 15: Family Conference Night
Sept. 29: MCAS Parent Information Session 6:00 PM	Oct. 23: JA Dance 6:30 - 8:30PM
	November is Family Literacy Month

Mon. = Day 1

Tue.= Day 2

Wed. = Day 3

Thurs. = Day 4

Fri. = Day 5

Be kind. Be safe. Be responsible.

Dear Families,

MCAS scores are here! We'd like to help you interpret the results and review your child's performance on the publically released questions. Parents of students in grades 4-8 should join us on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:00 PM to learn more about the test and the resources available to help your child improve their scores. By working together, all of our students will achieve!

Sincerely,

Krista Piazza, Superintendent

Star Student Congratulations to Cierra Connors, Anthony Chesnulavich, Jerry Davies, Shana Harden, David Mont, Samuel Castro, Shrutika Kumar and Zachary Gibbs!

Rainbow House News The winner of last week's "la frase secreta" is Alivia Burns. Remember to enter your weekly answer! This week's star students are Alberto Garcia and Debbi Ann Bryan.



Parent Partnerships Please join us and other parents of children with special needs at 6:00 PM on Tuesday to talk about ways to support or students and one another.

This week, we started school wide Directed Sustained Silent Reading (DSSR). We are encouraging students to read for enjoyment and comprehension by offering them attractive choices of reading material and providing guidance about strategies for understanding what they read. The program is off to a great start and your support will make it even better. Here are some ideas:

- Read! Let your child see YOU reading for your own enjoyment.
- Set aside time and create a quite, comfortable space for your family to read.
- Talk with your child about what s/he is reading (and what you are reading).
- Take him/her to the library to check out books.

Community Connections Thank you to the Seven Hills Soldiers Stomp Team for their outstanding performances at the Blackstone Canal Fest last weekend. You made us proud!

The Innovative Services for Latino Achievers (ISLA) is offering FREE activities (reading, art, math, games) for students in grades 3-6 on Wednesday nights from 6:00 - 7:30 starting on Oct. 7th at the ICC Community Kids Club located at Chandler Community Elementary School. For more information contact Amy Cantwell at acantwell@worchester.edu or call 508-798-6507.

The Big Y Homework Helpline is up and running! Help is available Monday through Thursday from 4:00PM to 7:00 PM. Call 1-800-866-BIGY or go to www.bigy.com/homework.

The Worcester Girl Scouts are holding their registration night (\$12 fee) on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 6:30PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 1290 Grafton St. For more information call 1-800-462-9100 or email info@gscwm.org.

Tomorrow is National Talk Like a Pirate Day! Dress like a pirate and join the adventure at Higgins Armory on Saturday and Sunday.

Reminders:

- After School Activities start next week. Please mark your calendar so you remember when your child will need to be picked up each day. We still have space available in the Monday and Wednesday

homework help and tutoring sessions, flag football on Tuesdays and Gr. 5&6 Basketball (schedule TBA). Please take advantage of this valuable, FREE service.

- Please do not allow your child to bring tech decks or other toys or distracting items to school.
- Thank you for your support of the Parent Guild Fall Fundraiser. Now that the ticket sales are complete, **all students are expected to report in full uniform** each day.



Ms. Dirsa's Help At Home: Last week I was talking with a Junior Academy girl who wanted to have a conversation with her mom but was afraid to because, according to her, her mom doesn't listen to her and "everything turns into a screaming match." When I spoke to her mom, she wanted nothing more than to be able to have an open and honest relationship with her daughter and was more than willing to start that conversation with her. Sometimes we just need someone or something to open that door for us.

I know that when my daughter reaches adolescence (ugh) your kids may all still come talk to me, but I will probably be the one person in the world she will not speak to! It's really easy to jump all over our kids when they say shocking things to us or give us attitude. What we don't realize is that how we react may damage our relationship with them. I'm not saying we shouldn't be angry, or register emotion, I'm just saying that we should watch what we say and do in front of our children. Something that may seem like nothing to us may stick with a child for a long time. For a child to feel unheard or unimportant or to hear a parent say something hurtful and/or damaging may forever change the way they see us.

Adolescence is the most important time to get our kids to talk to us and it is the time when they are the most closed-mouthed if you allow it! I can say from my own personal experience with your kids over the past 12 years that they will talk if you give them the opportunity! Here's a way to get the ball rolling:

- Tell your child(ren) who you felt comfortable talking to about "stuff" when you were growing up. Let them know that even though you are their mom/dad/aunt/uncle/grandparent/etc. you won't judge them, interrupt them, be grossed out or love them any less by what they tell you. Chances are you've experienced it, thought it, wanted to do it yourself, and may be able to relate to what they tell you.
- Whatever they do tell you do... don't judge them; don't register shock or anger on your face; just listen and don't interrupt. If you make a promise, follow through.
- If s/he chooses not to talk, leave the door open for him/her to come back. Tell him/her that if s/he is more comfortable writing things down, maybe you could journal to each other.

Your kids need to talk.... trust me, I hear it all!

Did you notice a mistake in this newsletter? Circle the mistake. Have your parents read and sign the newsletter and turn it in to Ms. Piazza on Monday morning to be entered into a raffle for a free dress down day.

SHCPS Weekly Challenge

Completed challenges are due to Ms. Piazza each Monday morning.

This week's challenge: Read at home for at least twenty minutes on Saturday and Sunday. Keep a list of new words that you encountered while you read and complete the chart below for three of them that you'd like to share so others can learn them too.

Unfamiliar Word	Sentence it was used in.	Definition (in my own words)

Name _____ Homeroom Teacher _____