



Seven Hills Charter School Weekly Newsletter

November 6, 2009

Respect is our Core Value for November.

Save the Date!

Nov. 9: Parent Guild Meeting 6:00 PM
 Nov. 10: Half Day for Students; Staff vs. Student Flag Football Game, Village Field Trip (12 to 6pm)
 Nov. 11: No School
 Nov. 16,17,18: Bookfair
 Nov. 17: Family Literacy Night 6:00 PM
 Nov. 19: School Advisory Council 5:30 PM
 Nov. 20: Last Day of Term 1
 Nov. 23,24: School wide Intensive
 Nov. 25,26,27: No School



Dec. 1: Board of Trustee Meeting 6:00
 Dec 2: Spelling Bee Final Round 4:30 WPL
 Dec. 2,3,4: Parent Guild Holiday Bazaar - Volunteers Needed
 Dec. 7: PA Auditions for Beauty and the Beast
 Dec. 8: EA Auditions for Beauty and the Beast; Parent Guild Meeting 6:00
 Dec. 9: JA Auditions for Beauty and the Beast; SLC's Go Home
 Dec. 11: Model Citizen Assemblies; Half Day for Parent Conferences

Be kind. Be safe. Be responsible.

November is Massachusetts Family Literacy Month!

Dear Families,

November's Massachusetts Family Literacy Month Theme is "Teams and Teamwork!" For your reading enjoyment, check out the great titles on the back of this page and even more posted at <http://www.teachersandfamilies.com>. You can log on to think.com to talk with other students and staff about all of the great "Teams and Teamwork" books you are reading. Enjoy!

Happy reading!

Krista Piazza, Superintendent

Star Students Congratulations to Candice Darteh, Vanessa Laracuenta, Kamille Hylton, Lexus Asibey, Mensur Bacaliu, Lillian Ramos and Jalyssa Reinosol!

Rainbow House News This week's La Frase Secreta winner is Gabriel Rodriguez from Ms. Keith's class. Star students are Alexis Roy, Kelsie Ortiz, and Ayanna Durham.

Parent Partnerships Come One, Come All...to our annual Family Literacy Night and Scholastic Book Fair!

Throw on your PJ's and join us at 6:00pm for fun stories, games, parent activities and special treats!

Parents to Parents Although being a parent is one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime, it is also by far the most challenging! How do you get your child to talk with you about important things going on in his/ her life? What do you do when your child talks back to you or refuses to do something? How can you set and enforce limits with your child without entering into a power struggle? Kids don't come with a user's manual. So, where do you turn for help? Each other! A few of our SHCPS parents have offered to run a parent group to share strategies and support one another. Please contact Mr. Farquharson at afarquharson@sevenhillscharter.org.

This year's **School Advisory Council (SAC)** has decided to focus its efforts on school improvement through early intervention. When reviewing the primary academy fall benchmarking data, as well as the MCAS Growth Reports, we have noticed that a high percentage of our struggling students are those eligible for ELL services. The council would like to address this issue through a three pronged approach: increasing teacher education around ELL programming and services, increasing parent education around school programs for language learning (parents learning English skills with their children through joint learning experiences using classroom curriculums, exchanging information about cultural beliefs that influence school participation - parent / teacher pot luck presentations about school experiences and perceptions about roles and involvement, etc.). The SAC has broken up into subcommittees to work on those efforts. One subcommittee will focus on course development (Ms. Clark). One will focus on recruitment and advertising (Ms. Clark Cranham) and the last will focus on event planning (parent, Andrea Windward). Please contact one of the subcommittee leaders to learn more about the efforts or to sign up to get involved. **Everyone is welcome to join us at our next meeting at 5:30 PM on November 19th.** We appreciate your help!

Community Partnerships: The Learning First Foundation (LFF) is a not for profit organization that aims to support Seven Hills and the MA education reform efforts. The foundation provides professional development for public school teachers, support programs for Worcester families and much more. To learn more about LFF, please visit www.222.lff7.org.

The Primary Academy is collecting food donations for the Henry Lee Willis Center Food Bank. Please send in donations of non-perishable items or grocery store gift cards to help provide relief to families throughout our community.

The Lions Club is offering FREE eye and health screenings at 389 Millbury Street (Head Start) from 9:00 - 3:00 on November 10th. For more information, call 508-799-3229.

Looking for a job? The Center for Living and Working, Inc. is now hiring a director of programs and an administrative and human resource assistant. Learn more at www.centerlw.org

The following organizations are interested in partnering with Seven Hills. Please contact Ms. Thyden at x1111, or via email at sthyden@sevenhillscharter.org, to let her know if your children would like to get involved:

- **Girl Scouts** - We currently have a fourth and fifth grade troop starting under the direction of Ms. Keith and Ms. Cotto. There may be additional troops available. If your daughter is interested in joining the Girl Scouts please return a registration form by November 12th. Forms are available in the main office.
- **Boy Scouts** - Mr. FanFan and Mr. Kirshenbaum have volunteered to run a Boy Scout troop. If you are interested in having your son participate in the Boy Scouts please return a registration form by November 12th. Forms are available in the main office.
- **The Civil Air Patrol** - A member from the Civil Air Patrol was at our school Friday, November 6th. If your child is between 12 to 18 years of age and interested in hiking, camping, aviation, honoring America and learning to become a leader, please return a registration form by November 12th. This program meets off site and provides students with so many opportunities. Go to their website for additional information, www.gocivilairpatrol.com. Registration forms will also be available in the Office.

This week's MA Family Literacy Tips

- **Know your children.** Before selecting books, make sure you know your child's reading abilities and interests. Your school's teacher or reading specialist can assess your child's ability. Your child's teacher or school/town librarian can make recommendations on age-appropriate books.
- **Set aside time for reading.** Designate a time of day when family members can read for pleasure. Make reading a part of your family routine.
- **Make reading special.** Children should feel as if having a book is special. Help them create a space for storing their books. However, if your child doesn't show an interest or strong ability in reading, be patient, but don't give up. Reading should be viewed as an enjoyable activity.
- **Use your local library.** One of the best resources you will have as a parent is access to your community's library. It costs nothing to borrow books. Many libraries also offer story hours and other fun literacy activities. Make visits to your library a routine activity.
- **Limit television time.** Monitor program selection for your children. Discuss programs with them. Have a "NO-TV" night with your family on a regular basis. Read magazines, write letters to relatives living far away, or play charades or Scrabble as a refreshing alternative.

Teams and Teamwork Titles

- **Grades K-2**
Duck in the Truck by Jez Alborough
Swimmy by Leo Lionni
For more ideas go to <http://www.teachersandfamilies.com>
Zinnia and Dot by Lisa Campbell Ernst
A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog by Mercer Mayer
- **Grades 3,4**
Let the Games Begin by Maja Ajmera
Two Heads are Better than One by H. B. Homzie
Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel
Arthur Makes the Team by Marc Brown
When Picasso Met Mootisse by Nina Laden
- **Grades 5,6**
Mission Control, This Is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon by Chaikin
Granny Torelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech
Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz
The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong
- **Grades 7,8**
The Other Half of Me by Emily Franklin
Wrestling Sturbridge by Rich Wallace
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
Bat 6 by Virginia Euwer Wolff

SHCPS Family Literacy Weekly Challenge

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

Go to <http://www.teachersandfamilies.com/open/tr/tr3.cfm> and read the Tips to Build Better Readers. Pick at least one tip each week and try it out while reading a favorite book. Create a poster about that tip to be hung in the school. Come to the main office to share your tip over morning announcements.

The first ten successful participants will earn two tickets to the November 14th Holy Cross vs. Lafayette football game!