

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"IT'S ALL ABOUT S.U.C.C.E.S.S.!"



September 26, 2011



THE QUEST FOR S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Seven weeks of the new school year have now been completed. In two weeks, the first quarter will end. We are sending home conference sheets today for parents to schedule a conference. **ALL** parents are **required to attend** the report card conferences because they are important to the success of your children in school. The date of the **Report Card Conference is October 14, 2011**. Please arrange with your employers to have time off for your child's **Report Card Conference**. I would be happy to write a letter to your employer regarding the **Report Card Conference** if that will help facilitate you being there. **Middle School Students are required to attend the Report Card Conference** because they (students) will conduct **student-led conferences**. During a student-led conference, there are many benefits for the student, parent, and teacher. Those benefits are:

For the Students

- accountability for their learning
- ownership for progress in learning
- increased commitment to school work because **they** present to the parents
- increased interaction between child and parents
- independence
- self-assessment
- active participation in the evaluation process
- learning of real-life skills
- increased self-confidence and enhanced self-esteem
- development of leadership skills and empowerment
- fostering of organizational, communication, and critical thinking skills

For the Parents...

- assumption of a significant role to play in their child's learning
- active participation in their child's learning
- better understanding of that learning
- less intimidating environment
- forum for parents to have a voice
- more relaxed atmosphere
- better communication between home and school
- a forum for parents to talk to their child productively and positively

For the Teacher...

- increased student participation
- increased parental involvement
- more effective use of interview time
- gain of partners to help write the report card/growth plan, an important blueprint for success
- freedom to take on an observing role

Students in grades K-3 do not have to come to the conference.

Note: Please pick three times on the conference form that is attached to this newsletter and return it to the teacher as soon as possible so your appointment can be scheduled.



T.I.P. [The Informed Parent]

Last week, the tip indicated that with three simple practices, parents can help their children succeed in school. You were provided with details on Practice One, which is **Reading Aloud**. This week, we look at Practice Two, which is **Eating Together**.

Practice Two: Eating Together

- Research, from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, states that children, who regularly eat meals with their families are more likely to read well, get good grades, and are far less likely to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
- Family dinners do not have to be time consuming or elaborate. As little as thirty minutes a day with the family gathered around a simple meal—and the television turned off—makes a huge difference.
- The critical element is daily, face-to-face communications where family members share an enjoyable time together. It should be a time for sharing family stories, future plans, jokes, views on world and local events, and the details of each other's day.



More details on Practice Three: **Limiting TV**, coming next week.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

- 3-4 End-of-Quarter Reviews
- 5 Early dismissal at 1 p.m. **5-7 Benchmark Tests**
- 7 Fall Gala
- First Quarter Ends
- 10 Second Quarter Begins**
- 14 Report Card Conferences**
- NO CLASSES**
- 19 Early dismissal at 1 p.m.
- 22 Saturday Class (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)**
- 31 **Progress Report One**
"Boo-To-Do!".....Fall Fest [Parent Club Activity]

OCTOBER 2011						
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Candy Drive... [October 3- October 18]

Parents must sign for their candy when it is picked up. Parents can also earn service hours. **See enclosed letter.**

St. Jude MATH-A-THON

Our students will be participating in the Math-a-Thon to benefit desperately ill children at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Donors help ensure that no child is ever denied treatment because of no insurance. **More info to come.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Affirming words from moms and dads are like light switches. Speak a word of affirmation at the right moment in a child's life and it's like lighting up a whole roomful of possibilities."



Emily M. Paul, Principal