

News and Ideas from Swasey Central School

April 23, 2008

Joan Ostrowski, Principal

<http://scs.sau16.org>

Janet Hart, Assistant Principal

Math Challenge



The Tournament

Six teams are playing in a baseball tournament. Each team plays the other teams only one time. How many games will be played in all?

Source: www.whitehousekids.gov

The Brentwood School Board

The Board wishes to remind the Brentwood community that there remains one vacant seat. They would welcome a letter from any eligible citizen who may be interested in being appointed to the Board to serve the school district. The term would begin with the appointment and end in March 2009 on Election Day. Please send a letter to the Board c/o Swasey Central School.

The School Board meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Swasey library. Minutes of meetings may be found on SAU website at www.sau16.org or via the link on the Swasey Central School webpage.

Spring Assessment



During May, the 4th grade students will complete the New England Common Assessment Program's (NECAP) Science component. In this same timeframe, the 5th graders will complete the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Progress reading, math, and language usage assessments. Look for more information in the May 7th Wednesday folder.

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Winston Churchill

Math Challenge
Answer: 15

APRIL/MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21	22	23 3 RD Grade Field Trip	24 4 th Grade States Night, 6:30 p.m. 5 th Grade Colonial Night, 5:30 p.m.	25 Annual 'Jump Rope for Heart' School-wide Event 1:30 p.m.
	29	30	1	
Spring Vacation - No School				
5	6	7	8	9 5 th Grade Field Trip, American Independence Museum
12 4 th Grade Field Trip, Boston Museum of Fine Arts School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. SCS Library	13	14 Early Release Professional Development 1:00 p.m.	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
Book Fair, Art Show, and P.F.G. Raffle		P.F.G. Meeting 6:30 p.m. SCS Library		
26 Memorial Day Holiday No School	27	28	29	30

Student Placement for 2008-2009

Careful placement of students is a high priority at Swasey. We strive to create groups of students who will work well together and with their new teachers. We consider the children's learning styles and needs as well as teaching styles. If you, as a parent, have specific information that you would like to share (knowing that your child's current teacher is a key member of the placement team), please write a letter to the principal *before May 7th*. This may address learning environment and styles as well as any personal considerations that you would like to bring to our attention; *please do not request a specific teacher*. Page 24 of the Swasey Family Handbook has a detailed explanation of the placement process for your reference.

Newsletter On-line Update

We appreciate the many responses to our recent surveys pertaining to accessing the monthly Swasey Newsletter online rather than receiving a copy in the Wednesday folder. This edition of the Newsletter is the trial run for furthering this project. Interested families will receive a brief notice by email telling them that the latest newsletter is available on the Swasey School webpage. Newsletters will be sent home with the oldest child in the family to those who did not respond or who requested continuing with a paper copy. Thank you for supporting our efforts to 'green' the school by helping us to conserve paper and energy at SCS.

Report to Parents

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

Children can often be delightful. They also can sometimes be deceitful or unkind, bullies or victims. Sometimes the difference can be in the lessons they learn, both at home and at school. Here are some ways to help your children grow up to be respectful and kind, and to have the self-respect they need to make the right choices, both now and in the future.

Trade places. TV shows and movies can be helpful in teaching children how to be more sensitive to others' feelings. When you're watching a program together and one character behaves unkindly to another, pause the movie or ask at the commercial: "Did you notice how mean that character was? How do you think that made the other person feel? What would you do in that situation?" Talk it through together and stress the importance of treating people with respect.

Face the mirror. Too many children are very skilled at being angels in front of teachers or parents and the opposite when adults are not around. One of the most powerful lessons parents can teach their children is this: The real you is the way you behave when no one is watching. Children need to learn to behave well and treat others well because that's the kind of person they want to be, and because that's the only way to respect the person they see in the mirror.

Read up. From the time your children first hear bedtime stories through the time they're old enough to read for themselves, look for books that quietly impart messages about self-discipline, kindness to others, dealing with peer pressure, and telling the truth. Talk about the stories and see if they've ever been in a situation like the character in the book, or if they know of someone who has. Share your family values about how best to deal with those situations.

Truth or consequences. Every child, at one point or another, will try to lie. Discuss with your children that trust is one of the most important characteristics a person can ever have, and that it is very hard to re-earn that trust if people think of them as a liar. Ask them

how they would feel if they found out someone had lied to them. As a parent, show in your words and deeds that you are a trustworthy and honest person as well.

No excuses. Sometimes, parents are unaware that their children are misbehaving in school until they are notified by a teacher. The problem is that parents too often react with denial. But that doesn't help anyone, particularly not the child, who learns that he or she can get away with bad behavior at school as long as the parents are fooled. If you get that call or note from the teacher, swallow your pride, talk to your child, and make an appointment to meet with the teacher.

Stand strong. It is difficult for children to deal with situations in which their classmates, neighbors, siblings, or friends are behaving in a bad or cruel manner. Help them be prepared by role-playing ahead of time—act out situations they might face and see how they'd react. Talk with them about other ways to deal with the peer pressure, and let them know that, while standing up to their friends or peers might temporarily make them less popular with that group, in the long run they will have earned the respect of those whose opinions matter more.

The golden rule. Teach your children to treat others the way that they, themselves, would like to be treated. Reinforce it at home, by treating your children with respect and expecting to be treated respectfully in return. Reinforce it through your church, synagogue, or temple, or through involvement in community activities that work to help others. And, most importantly, show your children you truly believe it by behaving respectfully yourself.

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