

Information, Ideas, and News from Swasey Central School

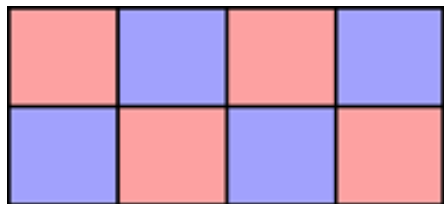
January 9, 2008

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<http://scs.sau16.org>

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Math Challenge



Determine the maximum number of rectangles in the above figure?

Source: www.whitehousekids.gov

Happy New Year

Everyone at Swasey wishes each of you a healthy and happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are almost half-way through the 07-08 school year. Be sure to note the dates for events listed in the calendar below.

A couple of gentle reminders:

- ◆ The mid-day kindergarten/preschool pick-up and drop-off times need to be honored as does the expectation that the school grounds are only for students during the school day. If you arrive early, please wait in your cars until either 11:10 a.m. or 12:40 p.m. This is part of our efforts to be able to monitor the children's safety during the school day.
- ◆ The parking lot behind the school is closed to traffic from 8:50 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. Visitors should park in the west lot during school hours. Parents may park in the circle if just picking up or dropping off children.

In the eyes of a child, love is spelled
T-I-M-E.



It is time for the Swasey School Community to show support for our Fantastic

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS!

Wear your shirts, hats, or the Patriots' colors each of the next four Fridays.

Wear them again on Monday, February 4th when the Patriots are the Super Bowl XLII CHAMPS!



JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	8	9	10 4 th Grade Walking Field Trip to Brentwood Town Office	11 N. E. Patriots' Friday at Swasey
14 Brentwood School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Swasey Library Brentwood Budget Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Brentwood Town Office	15 P.F.G. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Swasey Library	16	17	18 End of Second Quarter N. E. Patriots' Friday at Swasey
21 No School Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day	22	23	24	25 N. E. Patriots' Friday at Swasey
28	29	30 Developmental Records Home with Students Early Release Students Dismissed at 1:00 p.m. Professional Development for Staff	31	1 N. E. Patriots' Friday at Swasey
4 Super Bowl Champs' Monday at Swasey	5	6 Sargent Camp Student Information Session 1:30 p.m. Sargent Camp 5th Grade Parent Information Session 6:30 p.m., SCS Library	7	8
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15

A Preschool Opportunity

It is time for the Developmental Preschool to add a second session to the school schedule. Beginning in the next few weeks, Swasey Central School will be adding preschool programming on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30 - 11:30.

If you have a child who is three (3) or four (4) years old and would be interested in submitting an application expressing your interest in our program, please call the school as soon as possible to request an application. If you would prefer, you may email Principal Ostrowski at the address at jostrowski@sau16.org.



Play Games

Most children have access to DVD games, the Internet, and a myriad of other electronic entertainment. Still, old-fashioned games offer an opportunity for interaction of a different sort. As principal of the school, I look forward to children asking to spend time with me. Often, I suggest playing a board game. I have found that this leads to return visits and requests for friends to join in the fun - not to mention, a lot of laughs! Some suggestions

- ◆ Clue
- ◆ Uno
- ◆ Yahtzee
- ◆ Scrabble
- ◆ Battleship
- ◆ Pictionary
- ◆ Sorry!
- ◆ Twister
- ◆ Connect Four



Source: Family Circle Magazine

Building Self-Esteem

Daily habits reassure children. This is especially true when kids associate them with happy feelings. Here are some routines to develop:

- ◆ Reading: Pick a time when your child is alert and interested. Choose books you know s/he will like.
- ◆ Sleeping: Stick to a waking up and going to bed schedule. This will help your child feel his/her best.
- ◆ Disciplining: Make good rules and use them consistently so that your child will know what's expected of him/her.

Using Our Senses

Use the school week to celebrate your child's five senses:

- ◆ Monday, pick a color to find all day long.
- ◆ Tuesday, name the noises you hear.
- ◆ Wednesday, touch things with different textures.
- ◆ Thursday, smell different spices.
- ◆ Friday, taste a new food

Talking and Listening

Introduce the quality of empathy to your child:

It may be years before your child can understand others' feelings. For now, encourage him/her to express his/her feelings. Help him/her to notice how others are feeling. Use feeling words such as, "I'm disappointed."

Asking Questions Can Lead to Improved Behavior

If your child is old enough to do something (such as share), but has trouble with it, try using questions. Ask:

- ◆ What is the problem?
- ◆ How did you feel when you did that?
- ◆ How do you think that will make your friend feel?

Source: Helping Children Learn, The Parent Institute, September 2004

Math Challenge Answer: 30

In short, the habits we form from childhood make no small difference, but rather they make all the difference.

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), Greek Philosopher

Prepare Your Preschooler to be a Responsible Member of a Group

Every child needs to learn that a parent or another adult cannot pay attention to her all of the time. This is a lesson that she needs to learn for school as well. Everyone in a classroom has needs and one child cannot be the center of attention.

To prepare your child for the give and take of the school classroom, teacher her to:

- ◆ Entertain herself. She will need to work and play without interrupting others when she is in school. Give her some undivided attention, then expect her to settle down with her own activity while you read or relax.
- ◆ Be helpful. She'll need to help out with chores in the classroom when she starts school. Invite your child to help as you do chores. She can dust, help sort laundry, or pick up toys.
- ◆ Take it easy. Sometimes at school she will need to wait patiently for her turn. Slow down and teach your child to relax, too. Not everyone works at the same pace.

Source: Barbara Rowley, "Get Happy! 9 Easy Ideas for Putting More Pleasure into Your Days," Parenting, June 2004

