SEASON OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING!

This is a wonderful time of year at Aberdeen School as we get more involved in Christmas festivities. The excitement of our students is infectious and creates a wonderful atmosphere in the school. The elementary concert will be fantastic! Our Grade 6 students, who play the major roles in the play, are exemplary and our elementary classes will also be very entertaining. Many staff members have had a hand in putting together the concert and we really appreciate their efforts.

The SRC has been very busy planning and organizing festive activities. Today they served hot chocolate and cookies to the entire school. Our Christmas events culminate with the Grade 7 to 12 banquet at the Community Hall on December 22nd. Thank you to those parents who are supervising elementary students while the banquet is on. We also wish to extend a huge thank-you to all the families who will be contributing food and to Elma Wutzke who, once again, will lend a hand with the food preparation.

As we reflect on the past year, it is amazing to see the growth and development of the children in the school. We take joy in every student who attends Aberdeen School, for each one is a wonderful expression of intelligence, creativity and life. We are grateful for our caring and dedicated staff, who help to create a rich and positive learning environment. We are also thankful for the involvement and support of our parents, who nurture and guide our students. It is a great experience working with you and our School Community Council. We are also appreciative of the members of our School Board, our Senior Administration and Central Office staff, who also work to make a difference in the lives of children.

On Behalf of the Aberdeen School Staff
Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Donna Duriez  Deane Martin Gray

December 2017

Dates to Remember

Dec. 20th  Pajama Day
Dec. 21st  K to 6 Christmas Concert 1:30 & 7:00
Dec. 22nd  Gr. 7 to 12 SRC Christmas Banquet
Dec. 23rd to Jan. 7th  No School Christmas Break
Jan. 24th  Last Day of Semester 1 for Grade 10 to 12
Jan. 25th to 30th  Gr. 10 to 12 Exams
Jan. 31st  No School
Feb. 1st  First Day of Semester 2
Feb. 5th to 9th  Grade 12 Work Experience
Feb. 7th  Gr. 9 to 12 Report card Distribution
Feb. 16th  Gr. 7 to 12 Winter Carnival
Feb. 19th to 23rd  No School
Feb. 28th  Gr. 7 to 12 Ski Trip
March 12th  No School
March 16th  K to 8 Report Card Distribution
March 12th  No School
March 22nd  Fun Night
March 27th & 28th  Student Progress Meetings

Merry Christmas from the Aberdeen School Community Council

Bonnie Doige (chair)  Laura Laskowski
Lori Hamoline  Leanne Deobald
Brandi Tomyn  Krista Doering
Lori Sopotyk
Donna Duriez  Deane Martin Gray

FAREWELL TO OUR TEACHER INTERNS

Aberdeen School would like to send a warm THANK YOU to two interns who joined our staff this semester. Mackenzie Walsh worked with Mrs. Dahl in Grade 4 and Jo-Lyn Smith worked with Mr. Cumming in Math. Both ladies were actively involved in our school and certainly made a difference.

Your time and efforts are much appreciated.

Good luck in the future as you pursue your teaching career.
DRESS FOR THE WEATHER
Please be sure your child is dressed for the weather each day. Students have recess in
the morning at lunch and in the afternoon. Students need boots and snow pants in or-
der to play in the snow. Also, please be sure your child is prepared for the cold days of
winter and is wearing mittens and a toque. Thank you to the community members who
have donated warm clothing to the school. We really appreciate your kindness!

REMINDER
Skates transported on the school bus must be in a cloth bag.

CRUSADER EXTRA CURRICULAR NEWS

CURLING
Senior and junior curling are well underway! Our 40+ curlers have been working on tightening
up form these past couple of weeks, as they look to be more consistent and technically sound
in their deliveries.

Learn to Curl
This year there are 13 eager Grade 5 and 6 students that are excited to learn the sport of curling. They
will learn the basics of the game as well as the skills they will need to move on to junior curling in a year
or two.

JUNIOR BOYS BASKETBALL
The boys played a warm-up night in Martensville on Nov. 30 and then went on to win Vanscoy's
tournament two days later. The boys are working well as a group and developing new skills every day.

JUNIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL
The junior girls basketball team is off to a nice start to the season, having participated in two tourna-
ments thus far. In Vanscoy, the girls shook off some nerves and showed major progress from the first
game to the last. In Martensville, the girls battled hard in all four games, and won two of them! We
came in with the smallest roster of girls, 8, but they represented Aberdeen tremendously. I'm super
proud of the progress I've seen and am looking forward to the second half of the season. Good job
girls!

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL
The Senior Boys Basketball team is looking strong this year with many returning Grade 11's. A tough
draw against the top two teams in our first home tournament left the boys out of medal contention, but
we're looking forward to 2018. With tournaments in Asquith, Leask, and another home tournament
here in Aberdeen, the boys will be busy leading up to playoffs! Come check out the action here in Aber-
deen on Saturday, Feb 3!
Thank you to all of the parents, workers, and volunteers that made our first tournament such a success!

CIA (Crusaders In Action)
Our team has been meeting every Thurs-
iday at lunch to build leadership skills and
plan an activity to raise funds for our glob-
al goal of supporting WE health initia-
tives in Africa. We look forward to promot-
ing a road hockey tournament, "Hockey for
Health" set for February. Please watch for
more details in the New Year.

SADD
With the holiday season upon us we
know it's an exciting time of get-
togethers with family and friends. The
SADD team would like to send a friend-
ly reminder to our school community
to always plan a safe ride home.
We wish everyone a fantastic holiday and a very Happy
New Year.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Please remember to keep your family contact information up to date especially as we are head-
ing into the winter weather season. Parents of students in Kindergarten—Grade 12 can update
through PowerSchool anytime. If you are downloading the app and need the District Code, it is
QNRH.

Wishing each and every one of you a safe and
joyful holiday season.

From the staff and students of the Aberdeen School,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
SCHOOL BUS NON-OPERATION

The following is information regarding the non operation of school buses in inclement weather:

Winter weather conditions which result in a combination of factors such as severely limited visibility, dangerously high wind chill values, or icy roads, may be seen as reasons for non-operation of the school buses. Specific conditions which meet or exceed the following criteria can be seen as reasons for non-operation of the school buses to schools in the division.

A) combined temperature and wind-chill factor of –40°C at 6:00 am.*
B) severely drifted or extremely icy roads.
C) limited visibility because of dense fog, heavy rain, blowing snow or severe dust storms.

*These environmental conditions as announced by Environment Canada.

The decision not to run a bus would be made by the bus driver, who would immediately inform the school principal of the decision. The bus driver will also contact all families on his/her route to inform them that the bus will not be running. Busses that do not run in the morning because of weather conditions, are not to run at all on that same day. The only exception to this rule will be when the cancellation is a result of reduced visibility due to fog. In that event only, busses will run for charters and for the afternoon routes if the fog in that area has dissipated at the time of departure.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ALL BUS STUDENTS HAVE AN IN-TOWN BILLET. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BILLET!

SRC News

The SRC is looking forward to the holiday season and had their traditional holiday events planned for the last few days of school.

Friday, December 15th was Tacky Christmas Sweater Day. Many students and staff donned colourful, festive sweaters.

Tuesday, December 19th was ‘Dress Christmassy’ Day. Everyone was encouraged to wear red and green, Christmas jewellery and accessories, antlers and Santa hats.

Pajama/hot chocolate/cookie day for all K-12 students was held on Wednesday, Dec. 20th. The SRC treated the entire school to freshly baked cookies and hot chocolate and everyone was toasty warm in their cozy pajamas.

Friday, December 22nd is the day that all Grades 7-12 students look forward to ……. and the kick-off to the holiday season. The annual Christmas banquet will be held at the Community Hall for Grades 7-12 students and all staff, as well as a few invited guests from the community. Left over food will be donated to people in the community.

The SRC would like to thank Ms. Meldrum for her organization and preparation of the Christmas banquet. Once again we send a huge thank you to Elma Wutzke, whose assistance has been invaluable for many years.

Again this year the SRC has supported Aberdeen Christmas Miracles by collecting food items and toys, as well as presenting a cash donation. Thank you to all the families who have contributed to this special project.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

from
ABERDEEN COMPOSITE SCHOOL SRC
CLASSROOM NEWS

Kindergarten
The Kindergarten class has come to school for 31 days. It is a short time but we have covered a lot of things in that time. The students should be very proud of themselves. They are excited about skating with our care partners this month. Also, many of us are looking forward to performing at the Christmas concert. Look for the 28 kids dressed like Christmas trees! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and see you in the New Year.

Grade 1
Merry Christmas to all! This is our last newsletter for 2017; it is hard to believe we have been at school for four months now. This month we will be focusing many of our activities on Christmas. We have been making several Christmas crafts and we are working hard learning our ribbon dance for the Christmas concert. In math, we have been working on number awareness and creating math stories from loose parts. This process encourages creativity while focusing on our numbers. Our field trip to the WDM was a success; thank you to all parents who joined us on our day. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you from the Grade one class!

Grade 2
The Grade Two children had a wonderful Field Trip to the Western Development Museum. We didn’t get to see everything and I would encourage families to spend some family time together and visit the WDM. There’s so much to see and enjoy! As well we went to Eastview Bowl and had a great afternoon with some fairly amazing scores. Skating times are very popular at this time of year and I’m so glad to see that all of the students are remembering their skates and helmets. The children enjoyed making pine cone wreaths with their care partners and are excited to show them to their families. We’ve been working on ‘Jingle Bell Rock’ for our upcoming Christmas concert. Hope to see you there! Happy holidays from the Grade Two children!

Grade 2/3
December has been filled with the sounds of tambourines, maracas, drums, rhythm sticks, woodblocks, and bells as we practice for our upcoming performance in the Christmas Concert of “Santa’s Music Band”. The students had been waiting in anticipation for their first field trip of the school year which finally came on December 14. They enjoyed doing a scavenger hunt through 1910 Boontown in the morning and glow bowling with lots of high-fives and cheering each other on in the afternoon.
In art, the students have been busy making Christmas decorations, ornaments, and cards. It has been a month full of energy and excitement and the students are enthusiastically counting down the days until Santa comes on the 25th!

Grade 3
Christmas is upon us and we have been busy with lots of Christmas concert preparation by practicing our singing and dancing to the country song “Christmas Time’s a Comin’”. I can’t wait to see them dressed up in their cowboy and cowgirl gear. The Grade Threes made up their own versions of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and performed them for the class. Be sure to ask them to sing it for you. We also did some wonderful Christmas writing and they have been published in the Clark’s Crossing Gazette. They are a great keepsake. In science we have been doing many experiments. Be sure to ask your child about the egg experiment. It was a lot of fun! We will be having our Christmas party on Friday the 22nd to watch a movie and enjoy snacks. From myself and the Grade Threes, please have a safe and happy holiday!

Grade 4
The Grade Four class has had a wonderful December. We have been working on a unit in geometry in math. We have created a “geome-tree” on our door with 3D shapes. We have also created symmetrical designs on the computer. We are finishing our week before Christmas learning about different winter holidays. Today we learned about Winter Solstice and the science behind the seasons. To celebrate Winter Solstice on December 21 we made lanterns to welcome back the sun. We also had a farewell party for Miss Walsh. We have appreciated all of the hard work she has put into our class. We will all miss not having her here in January!! We wish all of our Aberdeen families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Grade 4/5
What a busy month! Wow! December has flown by. Our science class has worked hard on finishing up their investigations into light and matter and created some very interesting projects which they presented to the class. Everyone has worked hard to improve their knowledge of multiplication facts and long multiplication. Students are enjoying centers in ELA which gives them a chance to work more independently in small groups. In health children are working to improve their self-image by sharing positive traits in a variety of forms. Students have been very busy learning their song for the Christmas concert and look forward to performing on Thursday evening. We are all dreaming of a white Christmas! Happy Holidays everyone!

Grade 5
The Grade 5’s have been studying measurement in math and enjoying some hands on activities. In ELA we have started Centres a few times a week which includes reading, reading with a partner, word work and creative writing. The students enjoyed writing “Trapped in a Snow Globe” stories this month. We have also learned about Christmas traditions around the world. We completed our science unit by creating Rube Goldberg machines and have just started a new social unit on Canadian Government. The students have been enjoying practicing their song for the Christmas concert. They will be performing a school version of Nuttin’ for Christmas. Merry Christmas to everyone!
CLASSROOM NEWS

Grade 6

The Grade 6’s have been gearing up for their Christmas concert and have been working hard practicing their lines and putting their costumes together. In addition, we just finished up our decimal unit in math with a lot of focus placed on long division. The class is excited to start their angles unit. In social studies we are mid-way through our unit on interconnectedness and global interdependence and are looking at cultural diversity. We have had a busy month so far and Christmas holidays are quickly approaching. To end our last week we have had classes come and view all the students’ hard work in creating informative presentations on cyberbullying for health. The students also finished up their book trailers in English. We hope everyone has a great holiday and we will see you in the New Year!

Grade 6/7 ELA and Social Studies

A big idea our class has been exploring this past month is, “Why is historical fiction important?” Students have been engaged in reading a historical fiction novel (or novels) to learn about how young people have experienced injustices through different times in history. Using picture books as mentor texts, we have been exploring author’s purpose and what we can learn from historical fiction, as well as articles discussing events from the past. Students wrote powerful “Found Poems” based on a reading of their choice. As we wrap up 2017, they are completing “Spoken Word” pieces (Gr 7) or researching an injustice to create a Public Service Announcement (Gr 6). The Grade 6s have also been busy preparing their play, “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas” while the Grade 7s are wrapped up in their passion projects.

Mrs. Ojukwu

Science 6-Grade six’s are ending the electricity unit by researching about Canadians inventions that have to do with electricity and explain how such inventions have changed our society.

Science 7-Students are starting the heat and temperature unit. They will be identifying the differences between heat and temperature. They will also take a closer look at thermometers, research a chosen type and explain how it functions.

Science 8-Grade 8’s are learning about light and optics. They have identified the different sources of light - natural and artificial. They are researching about the properties of light.

Math 6-Students are learning how to identify the different types of angles using a referenced angle. They will eventually learn how to use the protractor to draw given angles.

Math 7-Grade 7’s are busy learning the formulas for the area of circles, parallelograms and triangles.

Health 8-Students are exploring the effects of the media on body image

Health 7-Students are digging deep into healthy relationships and examining how misconception, culture, preconceived ideas, religion, stereotypes, etc could determine and or affect relationships.

Health 6-Students are looking at different personalities and deciding how such personalities could influence relationships

Mr. Cumming

Math 9-: Polynomials

Foundations and Pre-Calculus 10: Linear Functions

Workplace and Apprenticeship 10: Unit Pricing and Currency Exchange

Physical Science 20: Finishing Stoichiometry and starting Heat

Foundations 20: Quadratic Functions

Workplace and Apprenticeship 20: Budgeting

Pre-Calculus 30: Logarithmic Functions

Workplace and Apprenticeship 30: Limits to Measurement

Ms. Meldrum

PAA 7- The Grade 7’s have been busy working on completing numerous hand sewing projects. In the last month, we have completed stuffed owls, hot and cold pads and are on our way to finishing up sock monkeys. We’ve explored different tools and equipment used for hand sewing as well as acquired skills to make different types of stitches for different projects. The students are currently working on cake decorating. They have explored the steps needed to bake, level and decorate their own cakes. These will all be going home before the holiday break.

PAA 20/30- The students have recently completed the soup and sauces units where we explored many different types of culinary creations. They also completed a soup inquiry project where many delicious soups were created in our kitchen labs. We will be working on creative baking up until the break.

Mr. Olinhoff

Mr. Olinhoff’s classes are pushing full steam until the holiday break. Chemistry 30 is doing a titration lab report and preparing for their assessment on Acids and Bases while the Science 10 students are about to demonstrate their own understanding of chemistry. Science 9 students are working to master their understanding of matter and the materials that make up our world, while Health 9 examines the dangers of illicit drugs and addiction. Health Science 20 students are comparing the roles of various professionals within the health care system and are having a debate that all parents are welcome to attend on Wednesday, Dec 20 at 2:00pm. The phys ed classes are doing a variety of activities including some time at the Rec Complex. In the new year, these classes will be skating on the following days: Grade 6/7 - Jan 24, Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 14, and Feb 27. Grade 10 - Jan 10, Jan 30, and Feb 27; Grade 11/12 - Jan 9, Jan 17, Jan 23, Feb 7, Feb 13, and Feb 28.
Mr. Vedress
Happy Holidays to everyone taking the opportunity to read up on the happenings here at Aberdeen Composite School. It’s been a busy time here for staff and students (although this is a true statement at literally every point during the school year), so let me tell you what’s been going on for Mr. Vedress. In ELA 7, we have been exploring the Sci-Fi genre, using story planning to inform a spectacular piece of cover art for the next literary masterpieces. In ELA 8 we have transitioned from heroes of myth and legend into a top secret project involving writing.

In the physical education world, the Grade 1’s, 2’s, 2/3’s, and 3’s have been learning about balancing and stability as well as learning more strategies for tag and invasion games. The 4’s, 4/5’s and 6’s have looked at pickle ball, an indoor version of tennis. The 7’s and 8’s have also done pickle ball, and are now moving into research projects exploring bio-mechanical principles. The 7’s are examining a piece of sport technology and how it has evolved over the years and impacted the game (think of the move from wood to carbon fiber in hockey sticks, for example). The 8’s have kicked off a project using Newton’s laws to calculate force, and answer age old questions like: “What would hurt more, getting hit with a fastball or being kicked by a horse?”

Mr. Males
History 30 - Students are learning about the Metis peoples in Manitoba immediately after Canadian Confederation, and exploring the kinds of conflicts the people in Manitoba had with the expansionist Easterners.

Law 30 - Students are finishing exploring many aspects of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They have been looking into cases relating to potential Charter violations, as a practical way to understand the implications of the protections found in this document.

Photo 20 - Students are exploring the relationships between exposure, aperture, and shutter speed, as part of an in-depth look at how to compose photographs by taking more manual, creative control of these aspects.

Comp Science 20 - Students are learning about how computers understand and use randomness, and putting this in to practice, as they write programs that require the use of randomly generated information or numbers.

History 10 - Students are inquiring into the kinds of changes in agricultural practices in Britain in the 18th/19th century that helped to create the social change needed to facilitate industrial change in urban areas.

Social 9 - Students are exploring how it is that people know about the past, with a current focus on archaeology. This focus is intended to draw students attention to both the advantages and limitations of using archaeology as a factual source of historical knowledge.

Social 8 - Students are digging into historical immigration to Canada, including the causes for groups to choose Canada as a new home.

Social 7 - Students are being introduced to the various forms of map projections, and the advantages/disadvantages that they offer. Students will further their knowledge as they represent data and information on maps.

Grade 9-12 English Language Arts and Career and Work Education - December 2017
Happy holidays from all of us in English Language Arts 9-12. Here’s a quick update about what we are working on and exploring these days. In English Language Arts 9, the class has been deepening their ability to make connections and write about those connections. We’ve gone from comparing two subjects through paragraph writing, to using poetry to find new ways connections can be considered. In English Language Arts A10, the theme of justice and responsibility has us working with different forms of writing, as well as experiencing the classic Twelve Angry Men on the page out loud as a class, and on the big screen. We’re wrapping up To Kill a Mockingbird in English Language Arts 20 with a literary essay that asks the students to explore a theme within the novel, find a topic that they connect with, and build a clear, overarching thesis that results in a deeper, more complete piece of writing. In English Language Arts A30 our focus has been on "Celebrating the Glorious; Acknowledging the Scandalous", where we take a closer look at some of Canada’s less-proud historical events and the literature and art that those events have inspired. Students are also in the process of choosing a novel for an independent study that leads right up to final exams. As for Career and Work Education, Grade 12 students are currently being matched with businesses which they will partner with for their second round of work experience, taking place February 5-9, 2018. Again, from all of us, have a safe and delightful Christmas break.
WAY TO GO PARENTS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL!!!

On November 23rd some awesome parents brought their children to school to have some fun playing Bean Bag bocce, Lobster Ball, Pickle Ball, and Spike Ball! The winners of our fabulous prizes were:

Doige Family- Enchanted Forest Light Tour
Deobald Family- Enchanted Forest Light Tour
Younge Family- Family Movie Passes
Neufeld Family- Family Movie Passes
Grilz Family- Wilson’s Adventure Land
Merrison Family- Wilson’s Adventure Land

Home and School was so proud to sponsor this free event for our school families. There are lots of ways our parent association can encourage student learning and well-being. Please get involved! Our next event is our Christmas Baskets!
Winter reading

Does your youngster prefer to read alone, with family members, or in the company of friends? With these ideas, he can do all three this winter.

Choose themes
Encourage your child to read more by coming up with wintry themes for choosing books. For example, he might name “ice-skating” or “penguins” and pick out a biography of an Olympic skater or an adventure tale set in Antarctica. After he finishes each book, he can write the title on a paper snowflake and tape it to a wall. How many snowflakes can he hang up?

Discuss poetry
On a snowy day—or any day—read winter poetry together. Get a volume like It’s Snowing! It’s Snowing! (Jack Prelutsky) or Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold (Joyce Sidman). Boost your youngster’s reading comprehension by talking about the poets’ word choices.

Read with friends
Your child can see friends over winter break and practice reading at the same time by forming a book club. They might pick a chapter book to read, then meet to discuss it and enjoy a related snack, craft, or game. Or they could each bring a different picture book and take turns reading aloud. Idea: Suggest that they keep their club going all year long!

Coping with stress
Whether your child is stressed about a test or worried about a disagreement with a friend, try these strategies for helping her cope.

● Name it. Have her say what, specifically, is making her feel stressed. Maybe she’s afraid she’ll forget everything she studied or she doesn’t know what to say to her friend.

● Focus on solutions. Help your youngster think of ways she could relieve some pressure. She might review her study guide one last time the morning of the test or write a note to her friend saying she misses her and wants to play.

● Think positive. Remind your child of tests she did well on or ways she resolved problems with friends in the past. Suggest inspiring phrases she could say to herself, such as, “I know I can do it!”

Q: What goes through towns and over hills but doesn’t move?
A: A road.
Independent me

The end goal of parenting is to work your way out of a job. You want to teach your youngster to spread her wings and eventually take care of herself. Consider this advice.

**Let her try.** Out of habit, you might do tasks that your child could do for herself. If you’ve always done her laundry, for instance, you may not realize she’s able to do it on her own. Show her the steps, and see how she does with it for a week. If she isn’t quite ready, work alongside her a few more times until she can handle it herself.

**Resist “fixing” it.** Your youngster probably won’t make her sandwich or pack her overnight bag exactly the way you would. But she will feel more independent if she does it her way. If she struggles, offer gentle support. Say she’s trying to put a big batch of leftovers into a small container. You could set out a bigger one, and suggest that she try again.

Sticky-note math

My sons love games, but it’s hard to find ones they can play together that aren’t too easy for my older one or too hard for his little brother. At a recent school math night, I discovered a game that’s just right for both boys.

First, I wrote 10 addition problems on yellow sticky notes for my younger son and 10 multiplication problems on green sticky notes for my older one. Then, I stuck the notes around the house.

To play, the boys race around to grab one sticky note at a time, show it to me, and say the answer. If they answer correctly, they keep the note. If not, I hold onto it for more practice later. The player with the most notes at the end wins.

My little one was happy that having different problems gave him a fair chance to win—and both boys got a chance to work on the math they’re learning.

Fit volunteering into your schedule

**Q:** I work odd hours, but I still want to pitch in at my daughter’s school. What are some options?

**A:** Any time you spend volunteering will help the school and show your child that her education counts.

Get in touch with her teacher about becoming a volunteer. She may have jobs you can do at home, such as stapling together student-made books, or tasks that could be done during the school day like decorating bulletin boards. Don’t forget to check with her “specials” teachers, too. A PE teacher may appreciate a hand organizing equipment after school, while a music teacher may love assistance making props for the school musical.

Finally, touch base with the school office and the PTA for other possibilities. They’re sure to have ways you can help when your schedule permits.

What a memory!

Your child’s memory is like a muscle—the more he uses it, the stronger it will be! Here are two fun ways to strengthen his memory of what he hears and sees.

1. **Recall numbers.** Randomly name four numbers, such as 17, 36, 54, and 98. Can your youngster repeat the numbers back to you? Try again with five numbers, then six, and then seven. Talk about what strategies he uses to remember. Maybe he recites them in his head or relates them to numbers in his life—perhaps your house number is 54 or your phone number ends in 98.

2. **Remember details.** Together, look at a photograph for one minute. Put it away, and take turns asking each other questions about it. Examples: “How many trees are there?” or “Who is wearing a striped shirt?” Try again with a new photo—your child is likely to look more closely this time and recall more specifics.