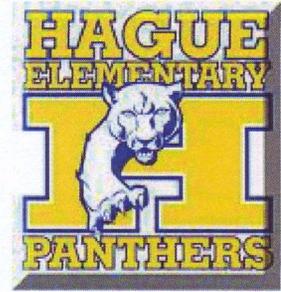




**PRAIRIE SPIRIT  
SCHOOL DIVISION**



**HAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**- KNOWING AND GROWING - CARING AND SHARING -**

P.O. Box 210 - 325 Saskatchewan Avenue  
Hague, Saskatchewan S0K 1X0  
PH: (306) 225-2104 FAX: (306) 225-2196  
E-mail: [hes@spiritsd.ca](mailto:hes@spiritsd.ca) Website: [www.spiritsd.ca/hagueelem](http://www.spiritsd.ca/hagueelem)

Mrs. Tracey Young - Principal  
Mrs. Joyce Bowers - Vice-principal

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014



### **ADMINISTRATORS MESSAGE**

#### **School Evacuation**

On Wednesday, February 12 we had the opportunity to execute our Emergency Response Preparedness Plan (or ERPP as we like to call it!). As staff entered the school in the morning we smelled what we thought was natural gas and immediately contacted SaskEnergy. Shortly after 9 a.m. SaskEnergy arrived and discovered there was carbon monoxide in the school and advised us to evacuate.

We enacted our ERPP and went to the Hague Mennonite Church. Artur Esau was our gracious host and set up a movie for the children to watch. SaskEnergy advised it may take some time before it would be safe to return to the school so in consultation with our division office we decided to send as many children home as possible. Staff began calling parents to see if children could be picked up, walk home, or take an early bus home. Late in the morning SaskEnergy contacted Mrs. Young and advised that the problem had been solved and that the staff and students could safely return to the school. It was a furnace filter door that had not closed properly and it was fixed more quickly than anticipated.

By this time many of our children had already been picked up. We had originally planned to send children home on early buses but cancelled those once we realized we could return to school. We contacted bus parents to inform them children would be coming home at the end of the day as usual. We left the church and spent the remainder of the day in the school.

I am very proud of how our staff and students behaved in this minor emergency. We were organized and orderly! This is a reminder for us that we need to have the most current contact information for parents. If you have a new work, cellular or home number please call and let the office know.

Thanks again to all parents/grandparents/caregivers who rearranged their day so that they could come pick up kids!

### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

We are accepting registrations for students who will be attending Kindergarten in the 2014-2015 school year. Children born in 2009 are eligible to begin Kindergarten in the fall. Please call Mrs. Wagner at 306-225-2104 if you have a child who needs to be enrolled.

If you prefer to e-mail, please include child's first, middle and last name, birthday and health card number, parent's name, home phone number/cell number and mailing address. Our e-mail address is [hes@spiritsd.ca](mailto:hes@spiritsd.ca).

Please remember to apply for a birth certificate if you have not already done so, we will need a copy of the birth certificate and health card when you register your child.

## ***SCHOOL GOAL***

Now to talk about learning! As part of our ongoing reading comprehension goal I will include something in my administrator's message around reading comprehension. This month it is about...what is reading?

Reading is a complex activity. We must know our letters and the various sounds they make, we need to be able to pronounce words, we must know the meaning of words and to understand those words in context (many words have more than one meaning), we use punctuation to help us understand, and we have to think while we read (does this make sense, why might the author say that, does this fit with my experiences, etc.).

As teachers we talk about decoding (being able to read the words) and comprehending (understand what we read). I can look at a University level physics textbook and read most if not all of the words, but I would really struggle to understand what is in that book. I would not know the meanings of the words, my background knowledge would be limited, I would not have visuals in my head that went with many of the concepts, etc.

Our school goal revolves around the comprehension piece. We need to be able to read many things...fiction, maps, the newspaper, manuals, Wikipedia, etc. We need to be able to decide what is important and what is reliable. We use many comprehension strategies that I have mentioned before: monitoring our comprehension, activating our background knowledge, questioning, visualizing, inferring, determining what is important, and summarizing/synthesizing. In the coming months I will go into more detail about how you can support these strategies at home. For now, please make sure you are reading at home...the leveled reading is really important for the decoding (learning to "read" the words). Library books or your favourite children's literature is best for those conversations about books. Stop and talk regularly about the book...share what are you thinking and feeling. What are the characters thinking and feeling?

Next month I will go into more detail about the strategy of monitoring our comprehension. Have a fabulous February break. I really hope the weather improves so we all miss having outdoor recesses!!!!

## ***BASKETBALL - Mrs. Lesko***

The boys and girls basketball teams have started their seasons and are off to a great start! They've been working on their basketball skills, and learning to work as a team. Both teams did well in their first games at Stobart. They boys came home with a win, and the girls lost by only a few points. There are 6 more games scheduled as well as final tournament. Most games are during the noon hour.

Wednesday, February 26 - Away at Osler.

Friday, February 28 - Away at VCA.

Thursday, March 6 - Home game against Stobart.

Friday, March 7 - Home game against Langham. Game after school.

Friday, March 14 - Home game against Osler.

Tuesday, March 18 - Home game against VCA.

Friday, March 21 - Final Tournament. Boys @ Osler, Girls @ Warman.

Go Panthers!!

Boys' Coaches: Mr. Nokinsky and Mrs. D. Fehr

Girls' Coaches: Mrs. MacKay and Mrs. Bent

## ***STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK***

Thank-you to the School Community Council for providing us a soup and appetizer lunch on Tuesday. Also, thank you to our trustees for supplying the staff with delicious treats this week in celebration of Staff Appreciation week. Your appreciation is much appreciated!



### ***SCHOOL SKATING***

We recently went through all of our helmets and tossed out any that we felt were unsafe. If you have helmets or skates that are in good shape please consider donating them to the school.

Thank you!

## ***COLD WEATHER BUSSING POLICY***

\* Buses will not run if the combined temperature/wind-chill is -40 degrees or below (special needs busses will not run at -35 degrees or below). Environment Canada "Saskatoon" temperatures shall be used as a guide for all Prairie Spirit School Division schools except Duck Lake, Blaine Lake and Leask will use "Prince Albert" temperatures. Prairie Spirit will also post cold weather/bussing info on their website [www.spiritsd.ca](http://www.spiritsd.ca) by 7:00 a.m. Also check the Prairie Spirit website at [www.spiritsd.ca](http://www.spiritsd.ca) under the heading Bus Cancellations.

\* Buses will not run if conditions such as blowing snow, fog or heavy rain impair visibility and cause dangerous travel conditions. Drivers, who know the conditions of their own route the best, will make this decision. The Board has instructed the drivers that safety should be foremost in their decisions.

\* If buses do not run at the regular time in the morning, they will not run at all that day. If a decision is made not to run, the drivers will inform the families on their route.

\* There will be no early dismissal due to deteriorating weather conditions. If it is determined at the regular dismissal time that buses should not run, bus students will go to their in-town billets and families will be notified.

\* In the event that buses do not run, the school will remain open. Rural parents are welcome to transport their children at any time during the day if they feel it is safe to travel.

## ***SUPERVISION***

Help keep our school safe by ensuring that students do not come to school before 8:40 a.m. unless they are here for an extra-curricular activity. Staff are busy in the morning preparing for the day and we do not have supervisors on until 8:40.

Thanks for your understanding and support.

## 2013 - 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, February 17- Family Day - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, February 18 - Friday, February 21- Mid-term Break - NO SCHOOL

Monday, February 24 - Classes resume for students

Tuesday, March 25 - Teacher-parent-student conference - 3:30 - 7:30

Wednesday, March 26 - Teacher-parent-student conference - 3:30 - 7:30

Friday, March - 28 - Teacher Prep Time - NO CLASSES

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL

Monday, April 21 - Wednesday, April 23 -- Easter Break - NO SCHOOL

Thursday, April 24- NO SCHOOL - day off in lieu of evening parent-teacher-student interviews

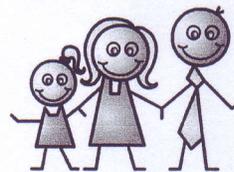
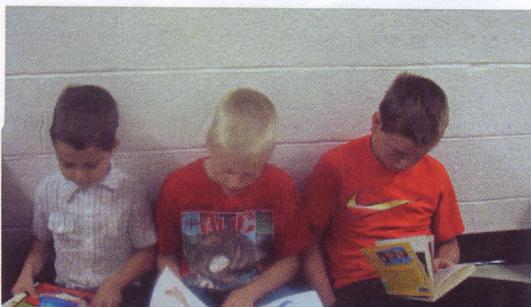
Friday, April 25 - NO SCHOOL - day off in lieu of evening parent-teacher-student interviews

Monday, May 19 - Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, June 25 - Last day of school for students

Thursday, June 26 - Teacher Work Day

Friday, June 27 - Report Card morning



# Family Day!



**Monday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Hague Arena**

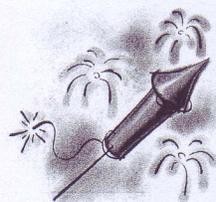
*Public Skating: 3 – 6<sub>pm</sub>*

*Curling: Closest to pin*

*Booth will be open!*

**Kenni the Clown 5:30<sub>pm</sub>**

**Fireworks! 7:00<sub>pm</sub>**



**Free Coffee,  
Cake &  
Hot Chocolate!**



# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

February 2014

Sponsored by your School Community Council



## SHORT NOTES

### The five Ws

Spark your youngster's interest in the newspaper by sharing sections with her. Tell her that a news story usually answers the five "W" questions: who, what, when, where, and why. Read an article together, and see if she can spot the answers to all five questions.

### Camp registration

In many areas, camp sign-ups begin now. If you want your children to attend, start looking into options. City or county camps will cost less than private camps, and some may offer free or discounted registration to help people afford them. You could also check with community centers and places of worship.

### Household fire drill

Your youngster is probably used to fire drills in school—but what about at home? Ask him to draw a map of your house and use a red X to mark two exits from each room. Then, pick a safe meeting place outside (the corner, a neighbor's front yard), and hold a fire drill.

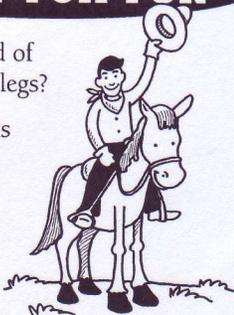
### Worth quoting

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer." *Harriet Tubman*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What kind of horse has six legs?

**A:** One that is being ridden.



## Your child's social life

Just like being involved in your youngster's education can lead to his success in school, taking an interest in his social life can help him form healthy friendships and handle peer pressure. Try these strategies.

### Ask about friends

When you talk to your child about what he's learning in school, also find out who he plays with at recess or sits with at lunch. During conversations with your youngster's teacher, discuss how he gets along with classmates. If he struggles to make friends, see if there is someone he seems to like or has things in common with. Then, encourage him to invite that child home to play.

### Meet other parents

Building relationships with the parents of your youngster's friends makes it easier to manage any problems that arise. Before your child visits a friend's home, call the parent to touch base. Better yet: Drop your youngster off, and introduce yourself in person. You can also meet friends'



parents at school functions (literacy night, concert), sports games, and neighborhood playgrounds.

### Explain peer pressure

Help your child make good choices when he's with his friends. Point out that kids influence each other in good *and* bad ways, and together, brainstorm examples of each. To determine the difference, he should think about whether a friend's advice is helpful ("You *have* to read this book!") or harmful ("Only babies wear helmets when they ride bikes").♥

## Fun with analogies

Here's an easy way to boost your child's thinking and word skills.

Give her an *analogy*, or a sentence comparing how things are related. For example, "Basketball is to *sports* as *mozzarella* is to \_\_\_\_." She should say "cheese," since basketball is a type of sport and mozzarella is a kind of cheese. Then, let your youngster give you an analogy to solve.

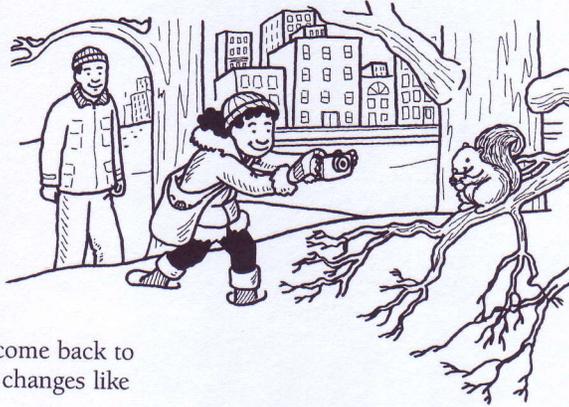
You could also make up analogies about topics she's studying in school. If she's learning about continents, you might say, "Japan is to Asia as Mexico is to \_\_\_\_." (Answer: North America.)♥



# Winter walks

Walking in a winter wonderland can be fun *and* educational. Find a trail in your neighborhood or at a park, bundle up, and have your youngster take along these items.

**Camera.** Bare branches allow your child to observe details that are hidden when trees are full of leaves. She can choose a favorite tree and take photos of it, zooming in on things like a squirrel perched on a branch or a hole in the trunk. *Note:* Have her come back to the same tree in the spring so she can observe changes like buds and bird nests.



**Bag.** Suggest that your youngster collect a few natural items from the ground, such as rocks, pinecones, or nuts. At home, help her practice research skills by using library books or websites to identify each object.

**Book.** Pick a comfortable place to sit, and enjoy an outdoor read-aloud. A volume of nature poems, a story set in the woods, or a nonfiction book about wildlife make nice choices. Encourage your child to look around for images from the book (an icicle dangling from a porch, a deer darting through a field).♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Memory strategies

Try this game to boost your youngster's memory. He'll discover techniques that can help him remember information he learns in school.

1. Write down 10 random words. Let family members look at the list for one minute, then put it away.



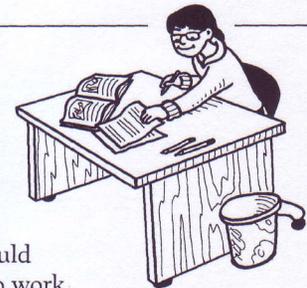
2. Give everyone a blank sheet of paper, and have them write as many words as they remember in two minutes. Count to see who got the most.

3. Discuss the strategies you each used to recall the words. Maybe your child noticed that *supermarket*, *crisp*, and *bowl* could all be linked to food, and remembering food made him think of those three words. Or perhaps you made up a sentence using four of the words.

4. Play again with 10 new words. Encourage your youngster to try one of the ideas you discussed. Can he remember more words this time?♥

### Developing a work ethic

A strong work ethic—a belief in the value of hard work—can help your child in school, at home, and in her future career. Consider these suggestions:



- Show her how you put work before play. You could say, "I want to relax with a magazine, but I have to work on our taxes first." Then, have her do her work first, too. For instance, she should complete homework before she watches a movie.

- Help your youngster recognize the feeling of satisfaction that comes from hard work. After she cleans her room, let her invite family members to take a tour. Or when she finishes a painting that took a long time, you could let her display it in the hallway as a reminder of her effort.♥

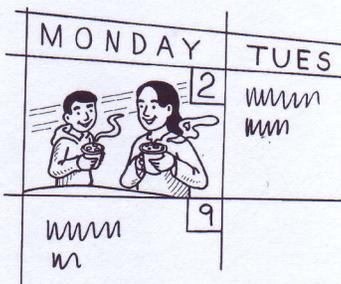
### Q & A Create together time

**Q:** *Our family has a busy schedule, and I feel like I don't spend enough time with my son. How can we stay connected?*

**A:** Try giving your son a special spot on your calendar. Find a pocket of time, and pencil in his name. Then, ask how he'd like to spend it. Perhaps you could visit the library on Saturday morning or chat over hot chocolate after dinner on Monday.

You might weave "together time" into your existing schedule, too. If you work the evening shift, call him during your break and let him read you a story. When you're in the car or on the bus together, sing songs with your child.

Also, think about ways you can save an hour here or there so you can make time to be with your son. Could you put dinner in a slow cooker once or twice a week? Would switching to online banking help you pay bills faster?♥



**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated  
 128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
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 www.rfeonline.com  
 ISSN 1540-5621