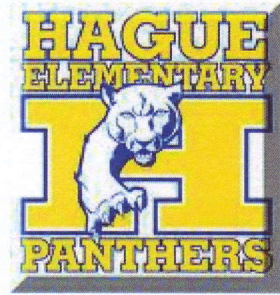




**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**



HAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

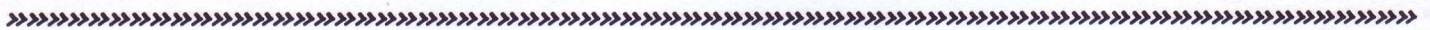
- KNOWING AND GROWING - CARING AND SHARING -

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May 8th, 2014



ADMINISTRATORS MESSAGE

Happy May! I am a true Saskatchewanian and I just want to complain about the weather! But I am also an optimist so here's hoping for sunshine and warmth. Speaking of sunshine and warmth - track season is here and we are asking for some help from parent volunteers on and before track day - please refer to the form at the end of the newsletter. If you can help out it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support.

A small group of HES staff will be presenting our "learning for life" to board members and some division office staff on May 26th. This is a great opportunity to celebrate all the work we have been doing, especially in reading. We will also get feedback on how we can improve our efforts next year. Please read the "making connections" portion of this month's newsletter so you can help your child at home.

Thanks to all the staff who have worked tirelessly at extracurricular this year. Staff members spent many hours planning and implementing school sports as well as intra mural games at lunch. These opportunities help students connect to our school and make coming here more enjoyable every day. In Education we are often asked to "do more with less" and that request often falls on the shoulders of school staff and I would like to thank them all for the extra work they do every day.

Please come out to our School Community Council Annual General Meeting on Monday, May 12th at 5:30 in the school library.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our moms.
"Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had...
and dealing with fears you didn't know existed."
- Linda Wooten

MAKING CONNECTIONS

We read to understand. We read e-mails from friends, jokes, and directions on how to fix something, information about fascinating things, novels that make us laugh and that make us weep. This is the real purpose of reading. Otherwise, what is the point?

People who love reading tend to be those who really "get into it"...they make deep connections to what they are reading. Sometimes the connections are to things they already know and love (history buffs that can't get enough of reading about the past). Some readers are connecting with a good story and stay up late at night because they want to read just one more chapter. Beginning readers need help and guidance in making these connections.

Here are some ways you can help your child make connections to what he/she reads.

- Help them see the purpose for reading. If you are reading directions on how to fix the lawnmower you need to understand every detail, look back at the drawing, make connections to the actual lawnmower. If you are reading an e-mail from grandma you want to make connections to grandma (oh can't you just smell those apple pies she said she cooked!). Stop while you are reading and show your child how you are making these connections.

- Students tend to find it quite easy to see similarities between their own life and the story (I also have a dog just like in the story!). Help them push that connection further by asking how the similarity helps them connect to the story (I have a dog and I love him so much...I would be so sad if he got lost like the one in the story). This may help them connect to the emotion of the story. Even have them pause and imagine what it would be like, what would they do, etc. You can ask them questions to help them make connections (how would you feel, what would you do, etc.).

- There are three main categories for making connections. Text to self (I also have a dog and so I know how the character feels because...), Text to text (this book/character/setting is just like this other book because...) and text to world (the girl in the book is worried that her country may go to war...I bet there are little girls in Ukraine who are feeling the same way). Look for ways you can help your child make connections in all three ways.

This is a brief overview of making connections, if you would like more information please contact your child's classroom teacher. Stay tuned next week for Questioning!

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

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.

2013 - 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, Monday 11 - Happy Mother's Day

Monday, May 19 - Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 27 - Local Track 'n Field Meet -THIS IS A CHANGE FROM MAY 29

Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3 - Grade 5 and 6 students at Camp Kadesh

Wednesday, June 4 - Rain date for local Track 'n Field Meet

Sunday, June 15 - Happy Father's Day

Wednesday, June 25 - Last day of school for students // Progress Reports go home

Thursday, June 26 - Teacher Work Day

Friday, June 27 - Teacher Work Day

HELP!! TRACK AND FIELD REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS!!

Track day is **Tuesday, May 27th** (Alternate day is Wednesday, June 4th) and we would LOVE (and need) to have some help from volunteers in the community. If you can help out please fill out the form and return it to the office by **Tuesday, May 13th**.

I can help out by using my roto-tiller on the two jumping pits a week or so prior to track day

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

I can help out by timing the race events (this will be an all-day commitment)

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

I can help out by working at the food booth for an hour (we will create a schedule and let you know the hour...most workers required over lunch)

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____



SPRING IS HERE!!

Students enjoying some fun on the playground!

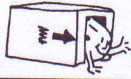
Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

May 2014

Sponsored by your School Community Council



SHORT NOTES

Dictionary games

Playing with a dictionary can teach your child to enjoy our language. Let him secretly choose a word from the dictionary and give family members clues to guess it. He might read its definition and then its synonyms or language of origin. Whoever figures it out first picks the next word.

DID YOU KNOW?

It's possible to get sunburned even on cloudy days. Help your youngster put on sunscreen every day before school, camp, or day care. For even more protection, have her wear a hat with a brim. *Idea:* Carry an extra bottle of sunscreen and a hat in your bag for unexpected outdoor adventures.

Yard sale

Consider having a yard sale this summer—and making your child your business partner. He could practice writing by helping you with the newspaper ad and creating signs to hang in the neighborhood. Then, use math to sort and price items together. *Tip:* Agree ahead of time on what share of the profits he gets for helping out.

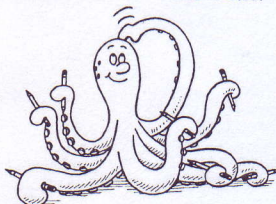
Worth quoting

"Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy." *Guillaume Apollinaire*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Which hand is best to write with?

A: Neither. It's best to write with a pencil.



Summer field trips

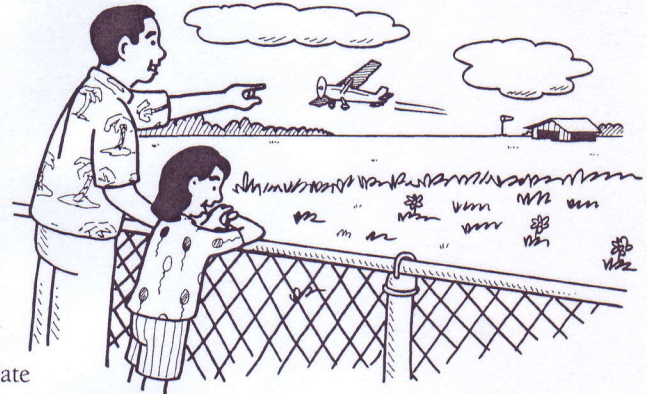
The school year is almost over—but the classroom isn't the only place your youngster can learn new things. Here are suggestions for family field trips that are fun *and* educational.

Ballpark

Batter up! Attend a local ballgame, and ask each family member to choose a batter and calculate his batting average for that game. Your child will need to track the player's number of at-bats and hits. Then, she'll divide the hits by at-bats. Whose player gets the highest average?

Airport

Explore the science of flight by visiting a regional airport (call first to see if they allow visitors) or going to a viewing point. Beforehand, your youngster can read up on airplanes in a library book or online. Then, watch planes take off and land, and have her point out parts she recognizes, such as the jet engines, wings, cockpit, and landing gear. She



could time how long a plane rolls down the runway before takeoff or how long it takes to stop once it lands.

Farm

A local farm is a great place for your child to discover where her food comes from. Find one that's open to the public, and take a tour. She could see farm machinery, learn what crops grow in your area, or watch cows being milked. *Idea:* If possible, purchase eggs or farm-grown vegetables, and have your youngster help cook them. ♥

Appreciating teachers

Encourage your child to tell his teacher "thanks for a great year" with one of these creative gifts:

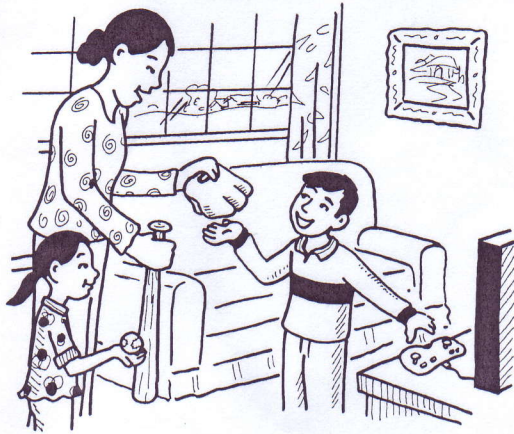
- A photo book will make a lovely reminder of his teacher's year. Suggest that your youngster arrange photos (or draw pictures) in an album. Then, he should write a caption for each. ("Field Day was fun!") Inside the cover, he might write a thank-you note.
- Combine flowers with teaching supplies. Let your child arrange artificial flowers in a clear glass vase, fill it with colorful magnetic letters and dice, and use ribbon to attach a thank-you card. Or get a plant, and let him tape dry-erase markers or pretty pens around the outside of the pot. ♥



What does respect look like?

Your child's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn respect.

Respectful replies. Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing, and he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such



as, "I want to be healthy, but I love video games." Finally, have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

Everyday acts. When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your youngster about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might point out that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

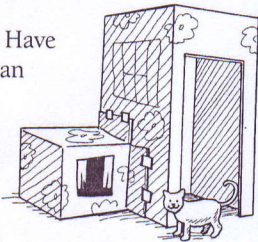
ACTIVITY CORNER

Fun with boxes



Don't throw away that box! Encourage your youngster to be creative this summer by recycling empty boxes. Here are two ideas.

1. Playhouse. Have your child turn an empty appliance box upside down, and help her cut out a door. Then, she could paint the outside of the box and use construction paper to add windows and curtains. Perhaps she'd like to decorate the inside walls with pictures cut from magazines. *Variation:* Make a smaller box into a playhouse for dolls or toy animals.



2. Garage. Your youngster can use several box lids to make a multi-level garage for toy cars. Suggest that she glue black construction paper into the lids and draw white lines for lanes and parking spaces. Then, let her stack the levels, supporting each one with "posts" (toilet paper tubes).♥

Q & A

A strong finish

Q: My daughter seems to have a case of spring fever. Any tips for finishing the year on a high note?

A: It's normal for kids to start getting restless this time of year. Still, it's important for your daughter to continue a regular homework routine and go to school every day. Remind her to turn in all of her assignments on time, since just one or two zeroes could really hurt her final grade. If she is struggling with any subjects, call her teacher or schedule a conference to find out how she can get extra support.

It might also help for her to start thinking about next year. Maybe she's been waiting until she's old enough to be a safety patrol member, a student council officer, or a morning news reporter. Encourage her to ask her teacher how to apply. Having something to look forward to may motivate her to finish strong.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Share the load

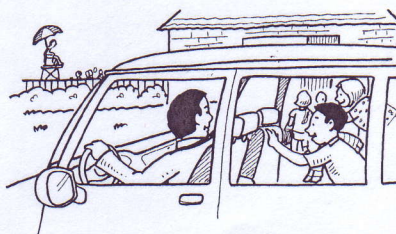
Between work and taking my son to child care, swim team practice, and tae kwon do lessons, our summer days are anything but lazy. This year, with the help of some other families, I think it will be easier on us.

My next-door neighbor has agreed to pick up my son at child care and take him to swim practice along with her daughter, who

is also on the team. In exchange, I will watch her daughter on Tuesday evenings when she runs errands or has an evening out with her husband.

Then, I found another neighbor whose child is in my son's tae kwon do class.

So we're going to take turns driving the boys to lessons. I feel like this summer will be less hectic. And I've discovered it's nice to have local families who help each other.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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