

Principal's Newsletter



January 2018

Seymour's Mission Statement:

The mission of Seymour Dual Language Academy is to develop our students' academic, social, technological and cultural skills through excellence in teaching and challenging curriculum. We engage students in rigorous learning experiences aligned to Common Core Learning Standards.

Upcoming Events

January 25:
Kindergarten Informational Night
5:30pm

January 26:
Superintendent's Conference Day: NO
SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

January 29:
Report Card Distribution

February 8:
½ Day for Students: Parent Teacher
Conferences

February 14:
Valentine's Day Carnation Sale

February 19-23:
Winter Recess (NO SCHOOL)

Dear Parents,

What an exciting time of year this is at Seymour Dual Language Academy! This is when we see many students take giant leaps in their personalized learning. Students who struggled with reading fluently are sounding like pros. Students who have fought with their addition and subtraction facts are finding that things are starting to click. This is a true testament to all the work done at school and at home since the start of the school year.

So, let's keep the positive growth going with the coordinated efforts between home and school. Remember, you can/should read with your child each night. Students need to read with you for (1) a fluent model of what reading sounds like, (2) seeing that you value the practice needed to grow as a reader, (3) continued practice of strategies and skills learned at school, and (4) quality time for you and your child.

Please take time to fill out our SCSD Parent Climate Survey online or via Smartphone @

https://scsd.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3QvpArI2LsiLsON

by February 23, 2018.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

Stephen Polera, Principal

We Need Your Voice!

Please come to our monthly Parent Curriculum chats held on the last Tuesday of the month. This is a great place to get involved, express your ideas, and meet other parents. Attending these meetings gives you a voice at Seymour and the opportunity for change. The more minds and hands we have, the more we create a community and school where our children want to be every day. The next parent meeting will be Jan 30th at 9:00 a.m. I hope to see you there!

“The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”

- Denis Waitly

Parenting Corner

* Reminders *

Dismissal Procedures:

Please, do not pick up your child any earlier than 3:45pm. We have been dismissing anywhere between 40-60 students between 3:00pm-3:45pm. We are an Extended Learning Time School (late school). Teachers are providing instruction to students up until 3:40pm.

If a student is signed out at 3:30 pm every day, they lose 2700 minutes, 45 hours, or 7.5 days of instruction in a year, which is considered to be Chronically Absent.

Children Need to be Taught How to Help

Most children are naturally self-centered and often are less giving than their parents would like them to be. Children need to be taught how to act generously.

To lead your children to be more kindhearted, you can guide them in charitable giving:

- First, **offer choices of charities that match their interests.** My daughter loved animals so she donated to a local pet shelter.
- Second, with younger children, **the recipient may need to be clear.** For example, you could bring canned goods to a local food kitchen so the children actually see where the donation is going.
- Next, **remember there are ways to give other than money.** You can encourage your children to volunteer their time for a cause. My son was fascinated by sharks, so he volunteered his time at a local aquarium. Another child who is interested in the environment could participate in a community clean-up project.
- Lastly, **let your children know when you donate to a charity**, either with your time or money. Modeling is one of the most important ways that parents teach their children how to behave.

Talk about why you have chosen a particular charity. Discuss how your contribution will help and how you feel when you make such a donation. If appropriate, bring your children along when you donate your time to a cause you care about.

Children of all ages can benefit by learning that the more they give to others, the more they "get" – in terms of good feelings and knowing that they have made a difference in their world.

Posted in [A - Z Parenting Tips](#), [Overindulgence/Gratitude](#)

...when in doubt,
choose the **kids**.
there will be
plenty of time
later to choose
work... ANNA QUINDLEN

Children Benefit by Helping Others

Children experience the good feelings that come from knowing they have helped.

They feel important and capable because they see that they can make a difference in their world.

As they think about situations beyond themselves, they become less self-absorbed and more grateful for the things they have.

It's not only children who grow.
Parents do too. As much as we
watch to see what our children
do with their lives, they are
watching us to see what we do
with ours. I can't tell my children
to reach for the sun. All I can do
is reach for it, myself.

~Joyce Maynard