



South Maple Elementary School News

Therese Hansen, Principal 650 East Fifth Street 989-731-0648

March 2010

Important Dates to Remember

Friday, March 5.....	The Irish School of Dance Assembly
Tuesday, March 9.....	'Rock and Roll' into Reading Assembly
Monday, March 15.....	Red Cross Blood Drive Presentation Report Cards Sent Home
Tuesday, March 16.....	PTO Meeting 3:15PM
Thursday, March 18.....	PTO Family Fun Night 6:00PM-7:30PM
Friday, March 19.....	Spring Fundraiser Kick Off
Monday, March 22.....	Spring Pictures
Friday, April 2.....	Spring Break Begins/No School
Monday, April 12.....	School Resumes

Understanding Stories

Betty Hartmann, Reading Specialist

Does your child listen actively when you read aloud? It's a key to understanding what's happening in the story. Try these simple tips to build listening skills:

Ask your youngster to retell small parts of the story to you. Or ask him questions while you read.

Examples: "What will happen next?" "Why do you think she did that?" Find the answers to the questions together. Or ask "What was the problem in the story?" "How did they solve it?" Or ask your youngster to tell you what happened first, in the middle, and at the end.

After you've read a story together two or three times, skip a word or two. Ask your child to fill in the missing word or words. *Hint:* This works especially well with rhyming stories.

Most of all, enjoy books together. Happy reading!

2010-11 Kindergarten Preregistration

Gaylord Community Schools is now preregistering kindergarten students for the 2010-2011 school year. Please call (989)705-3009 between 7:30AM and 3:30PM Monday through Friday to preregister your child. Step-up Kindergarten (students turning 5 after August 1st but before December 1st) information and preregistration will also be available.

From the desk of Kristy Somerville, LMSW-CM

School Social Worker

In recent years there has been a growing awareness concerning sexual abuse of children. It is estimated that one out of four females and one out of ten males is in some way, sexually assaulted by the time they reach age 18. We now know that a staggering number of students are sexually abused. That realization has led us to search for ways to prevent these tragedies.

It has been demonstrated in the past that prevention programs such as Don't Go With Strangers are effective means for providing students with important self-protection information. The same is true in the area of preventing sexual abuse. If students are given non-threatening, age-appropriate, information regarding protecting themselves from sexual abuse they are less likely to become victims.

Parents can breathe easier, too, knowing their children have the necessary skills to respond to uncomfortable situations that could result in sexual abuse. A caring adult provides a student with safety rules regarding crossing the street. The same protection should be taught to prevent sexual abuse and encourage personal safety.

Our school district is proud to offer the Michigan Health Model Education Program to our students. A lesson on the prevention of sexual abuse is included in each grade level.

A presentation of the Michigan Model curriculum for sexual abuse prevention has been scheduled for your child's classroom the week of March 22nd for second and third grades, and the week of March 15th for kindergarten and first grades. If you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to preview the lesson plan and video, please contact Mrs. Somerville at 731-0648.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES/UPDATES

- Teacher requests will be accepted for the 2010-11 school year. Request forms may be picked up in the school office beginning Monday, April 19, 2010. Completed forms must be returned to the school office by 3:45PM on Friday, April 30th.
- Encourage your child to read and keep track of 100 books to earn a Century Club medal. In addition each student that earns a medal will have their name entered into a drawing to win a bicycle.
- The school day begins at 7:45AM and dismissal is at 2:42PM
- Thank you for calling the school office before 8:30AM if your child will be absent.
- Students are not to bring personal property to school such as: electronic games, MP3 players, cell phones, toys and trading cards.
- Transportation changes should be made via a note directly to the classroom teacher.