

SHERIDAN PARK STANDARD

WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER

9/7/2010

Sheridan Park Public School

Sheridan Park Standard

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Dear Skyhawk/Ecohawk Parents/ Guardians & Students,

The entire Sheridan Park staff extends a warm welcome to all of our returning students, as well as to our new students and their parents. We hope that all of you enjoyed a fun filled, healthy and safe summer.

The students at Sheridan Park are fortunate to have wonderful teachers and support staff who provide encouragement, compassion, concern and opportunities for student learning.

A special thank you goes out to Mrs. MacTavish and Mr. Pinkerton for all their effort in helping prepare our school for the new school year.

We also thank Mr. Thomas for his years of dedication to Sheridan Park School as our crossing guard and Mrs. Beaudry, our lunchroom supervisor.

Thank you to all the families and Mr. Toner for taking care of our school grounds during the summer. All of us appreciate the efforts each family made in maintaining our grounds.

Together, we are committed to Achieving Success Together. I wish everyone a wonderful year and look forward to seeing all of you at our Open House!

Yours in Education,

J.M. Roberto
Principal
Achieving Success Together

SHERIDAN PARK TEAM & CLASS STRUCTURE FOR SEPTEMBER 2010/2011:

JK/SK	Mrs. DeLuca	Grade 7/8	Mr. Diiorio
Grade 1	Mrs. Trussell	Grade 7/8	Ms. Osborne
Grade 2	Ms. Kamendy	Grade 7/8	Mrs. Barton
Grade 3	Mrs. Breadner	F.S.L	Mlle Hedemann
Grade 4	Mrs. Mongelluzzo	L.R.T.	Mrs. Downs
Grade 5/6	Ms. Leip	P/J/ Rotary	Mrs. Mawson
E.A.	Miss Derstine		

Youth Counsellor: Mrs. Naundorf (Sept.- Jan); Mrs. Crummey returns in January.

Head Caretaker: Mr. Pinkerton; Evening Caretakers Mrs. Weightman, Mr. Critch

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. MacTavish

Superintendent: Mrs. S. Mark

School Trustee: Mrs. M. Heit

SHERIDAN PARK SCHOOL VISION

We believe that Sheridan Park Public School is a place where knowledgeable teachers, support staff and supportive parents work together to provide a safe, nurturing environment for students to learn through innovative and challenging programs, which encourage students to achieve their full potential.

We are committed to creating a learning environment that fosters lifelong respect between, and for, students, staff, support staff, the community, and the environment.

THE ABC'S OF PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS at school...

- Volunteer to help out with school events
- Take part in fundraising activities
- Attend student-parent-teacher interviews/conferences
- Support the school's special presentations and programs
- Attend open houses, school book fairs, school concerts and sports activities
- Showcase your trade or profession at career fairs for intermediate students
- Coach a sports team
- Attend School Council

FROM THE OFFICE

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL GUIDELINES

Our school bell rings at 8:45 a.m. If you arrive at school before the bell rings, please go to the playground. Supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Parents are encouraged to wait outside in the back for their children. Students will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Please note that all students must leave school property immediately after school unless staying for a school-sponsored event, e.g. homework club, sporting event. If parents are picking up their children and remaining on school property for any reason, they must supervise their children at all times.

LATES

It is very important that your child arrives at school on time. When your children arrive late, they miss the introduction to a lesson and therefore may lack some understanding as to the lesson content. Also, by arriving late into a classroom, a child disrupts the presentation of the lesson which is unfair to the rest of the class. When a student is late, he/she must report to the office prior to going to his/her classroom to obtain a late slip, which must then be presented to his/her teacher.

Punctuality is a life skill! If you know your child is going to be late or absent please contact the office. This will save a phone call from our secretary to ensure your child's safety. At the end of each month, a late report is printed. Students who are habitually late will be responsible for making up time. Please note students with appointments (i.e. doctors, dentist, etc) are not included in the monthly late reports. If your child is late three or more times, he/she will make this time up. Late notices will go home.

VISITOR SIGN IN PROCEDURE

ALL visitors **MUST SIGN IN** the **VISITOR'S LOG** at the office and obtain a visitor's badge to wear in the halls and classrooms at all times. **WEAR A VISITOR'S BADGE** and **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN!** If you are dropping off items for your child (ren) please leave them at the office. Remember that all of these measures are in place for the safety and security of all our students.

SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEM

As previously mentioned, our school has video surveillance and a door lock monitor system to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students and deter property destruction as best as we can. The video camera monitors the front entrance of the school to keep the front door in lock-down mode and the primary and intermediate field. All visitors reporting to the school need to page the office, and identify themselves prior to entry. Eventually, we will add additional cameras, in areas where graffiti and broken glass is occasionally found. These acts are detrimental to the positive school environment we work very hard to establish and maintain.

DOGS - LES CHIENS

A reminder to all of our parents and guardians that dogs must be on a leash. Parents are asked to wait with their dogs at the edge of the property. Thank you for your cooperation.

SAFETY PREPAREDNESS AND LOCK DOWN PLANNING:

For situations that may threaten our safety it is a proactive approach for maintaining safe schools. Currently, schools in the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) conduct six fire drills each school year.

In addition, we also have plans in place if we should ever need to evacuate our buildings, for a wide variety of reasons including extended power outages, inclement weather, etc. This year all schools across the DSBN, will continue to hold school-wide practices for Lock-Down procedures. Notices will go home.

OUR PARKING LOT

We have limited parking space. If you are dropping off or picking up, we recommend you park in the parking lot of the Burgoyne Arena. You can then cross your child with our crossing guard, Mr. Ron Thomas. Older children could, of course, simply cross where Mr. Thomas is located. There is limited parking on The Meadows, (the street on the east side of the school).

AVOID IDLING!!!**PLEASE RESPECT OUR NEIGHBOURS AND PARK ONLY IN AREAS DESIGNATED FOR PARKING.**

PARKING ENFORCEMENT is present through the week, especially during Break #2 and at 3:15 pm.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

A request to our neighbours, please look after our school gardens and grounds. If you need to report incidents, please call the Niagara Regional Police. Should you observe unusual activity at the school call the following emergency number 905-682-8065. Your co-operation is appreciated.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Make sure you check out the community bulletin board in our front foyer, which has information about community events, brochures from local community agencies and newsletters. Stop in to see what's going on!

OUR WEBSITE

Visit and communicate with us online at: <http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/SheridanPark>. Our website has useful information posted for your convenience: monthly newsletters, calendars, events, sports events and extra-curricular activities. Homework sites will soon be up and running. We invite you to visit our site. Thank you to Mr. Diorio for maintaining our website throughout the school year.

IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION

INSURE YOUR CHILD

The District School Board of Niagara does not provide medical payments coverage for students. Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance forms have been provided to each student to assist you in getting coverage. If you have no other insurance, it is important that parents/guardians purchase this coverage to ensure that medical or dental costs are covered in case of accident. It costs as little as \$2 per student for basic school day/school activity coverage. Please send your form **directly** to Reliable Life Insurance Co. (see brochure handed out on the first day of school).

LEGAL CUSTODY ORDERS

Due to circumstances, a family grouping and home situation may change. In the event of a separation or divorce, court ordered arrangements are made, please contact the school. By law, the school must give both parents of our students the same rights and privileges unless there is a court order to indicate otherwise. Therefore, unless the school has an up-to-date copy of a court or restraining order on file, either parent has the right to come to the school, see and speak with the student, meet the teacher, sign out the student, etc. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the parent and/or guardian to ensure that the school has an up-to-date copy of the legal documents on file and that the situation has been discussed with the Principal. Please contact Ms. Roberto if you have any questions or concerns about your child(ren)'s safety. Also, if you require 2 copies of newsletters, report cards or preferred contact information and/etc., please inform Mrs. MacTavish.

DAY 1 INFORMATION PACKAGE

On the first day of school your child will receive a package of forms and information for you to read and complete. It is vital that these forms be returned by Friday, September 10th, in order for us to have accurate information about your child.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Each family will receive a school year calendar. The cost of the calendar is covered by the school. Sheridan Park School Calendar contains most dates for the school year. Please keep it in a convenient place at home, we will send monthly updates home. If you require a second calendar, please notify the office. The calendar is also available online at our school website.

USER FEE

The User Fee is applicable for students in all three divisions and it allows parents and students to decide what is needed for the year. This is a practical way to take a look at the items available and make selections as needed, on one tracking sheet. The items available are: gym uniform (optional), Tribes shirt, Dudley locks (for grade 7 & 8) and student agendas. Please select items required and return the order form with cash or cheque by Friday, September 10th. Uniforms and Tribes shirts will be distributed during the month of September.

Lockers primary and junior students have lockers, but students in these divisions do not require a lock; however, students in grades 7 & 8 must have a DUDLEY lock. Your child's lock combination will be recorded and kept on file at the office. Key locks are not allowed. Keeping an orderly locker is the responsibility of each student.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Agendas have arrived at the school for students in grades 2-8. Agendas maximize the learning and development of primary students and are an essential home/school communication tool between parent and teacher. The agenda helps students build strong foundations for academic success, including good reading habits. Note: primary, junior and intermediate divisions will also provide parents with newsletter updates and/ or homework, which are both posted on our school website. Please review the first few pages of your child's agenda with them as it includes pertinent school information -including the Code of Conduct. The cost of the agenda is \$5.00 this is included in the USER FEE.

DESIGN/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The program focuses on covering expectations from the Science and Technology curriculum. Students in grade 7/8 will go to Lakeport/ Eden Secondary School for an afternoon of Science and Technology in either Term 1 or Term 2. Mr. Alyward will pick the students up at Sheridan Park. Students are responsible for walking to the site and conducting themselves in a manner that reflects the values of our school. Note: There is a designated entrance for our students to enter. The afternoon classes will be picked up at school for 1:00 pm. We recommend students pack a lunch on their S &T day even if they normally go home. The afternoon groups are dismissed from Lakeport/Eden. Lakeport /Linwell Road Crossing Guard is present. If you have to drop off/pick up your child from the site, the entrance can be accessed via the Lakeport Road parking lot.

Day 5 1:00 pm Mr. Diiorio Sept. - Jan. Mrs. Barton Jan.- June

Day 6 1:00 pm Ms. Osborne Jan.- June

MEDICAL ALERT

STUDENT MEDICAL CONCERNS

Any prescribed medication that is to be administered to students at school **must** have an authorization form completed by a physician. Forms are available at the office. Medications of any kind must **NOT** be left in students' backpacks. If your child requires any medication, please send the medication to the office. We **cannot** administer medication without an authorized form completed by a physician. Any medical conditions or concerns **MUST** be brought to the attention of the Principal or Office. A form entitled "**EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**" must be completed for a highly allergic **anaphylactic** children and **asthmatic** children. These forms are kept with the necessary medication in the office and names and photographs are compiled on a sheet with a list of allergies and necessary actions to be taken in the event of an emergency. All staff is made aware of the Emergency Action Plans and Epi-pen training is provided to our staff by our school nurse from the Niagara Regional Health Department.

MEDICALERT

Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's "No Child Without" program. There is **no cost** for students aged 4-14. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information contact the office for a brochure or go to <http://www.nochildwithout.ca>

PEANUT/TREE NUT AWARE POLICY

Please **DO NOT** send food to school that contains nuts. We have several students with life threatening allergies. It is our policy that students **DO NOT** exchange or share food! Thank you for your co-operation in making our community a safe place for everyone! We are doing all we can as a community to provide a safe environment for all students. Thank you for your cooperation!

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

2ND BREAK

Children are not permitted to leave school grounds unless they have permission to go home. This is a very serious matter that could result in loss of lunch privileges at school. It is imperative school personnel account for every child. A missing child will warrant a call to the police. Please speak to your child about this important matter. Sheridan Park Public School does not support students eating lunch at the local restaurants as we cannot be responsible for their safety when crossing high traffic areas or for their behaviour in the community. Our lunch form includes two options for students, home or school. Please complete the form accordingly.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents are welcome to come in and search through the bags of unclaimed items throughout the year. We will put items on display in the front foyer. Lost and found items will be donated to Community Care at the end of the school year.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

A reminder to students to wear clothing that is appropriate to our academic setting and that contributes to a positive image of our school.

Tops must be below the waistband of pants (no bare midriffs). Shoulder straps need to be three fingers wide. Halter tops, tube tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts and mesh tops are not to be worn.

Shorts and skirts must be an appropriate length for school. All clothing must be worn in such a manner so as not to reveal undergarments or bare mid-sections of the body in the normal range of movements.

Running shoes are appropriate for the playground equipment. (Crocs and flip flops are not encouraged on the playground equipment)

If staff considers clothing inappropriate, the student will be asked to change. We have a variety of t-shirts and shorts available for our students to change into; a student may change into his/her gym clothing or arrange to go home to change. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

It is important that all cell phones and electronic devices be turned off and in students' lockers during the school day. If these electronic devices are confiscated by staff, parents/guardians will be notified.

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARD

Proper bicycle safety must be observed at all times and we expect these rules to be followed: Bikes must be walked to the racks once the student has entered school property; Bikes must be locked; Students in grade four and up are permitted to ride their bikes to school. All cyclists by law must wear a helmet. (1995) We fully expect that any student riding a bike to school WILL WEAR A HELMET.

Note: Scooters, Rollerblades and Skateboards must be stored in lockers.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

MEET THE TEACHER OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday September 15th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Food orders will not be taken prior to Open House.

Each family will pay for their food at the Open House.

Family Photo Night will be held in the gym— 4:30-7:00 pm

Intermediate Quebec Information Session will be held in the Learning Commons 6:30-7:00 pm

Classic Catering will host our BBQ.

Our Magazine Campaign information will also be available in the school gym.

MAGAZINE CAMPAIGN

We will be running our annual magazine subscription campaign again and would appreciate your continued support. Though there are other companies/publishers that may be asking for your new and renewal magazine orders, it would be very much appreciated if you waited for our campaign so the students can take your order. A large portion of the funds stays here in our community, so it is a wonderful fundraiser for our school. Thank you in advance for "saving" your magazine orders and helping make our campaign a great success! If you currently want to order any subscriptions, please use our school code and we will still profit from your order! Our kick off is Wednesday, September 15th and a separate reminder note will go home.

PICTURE DAY

Students will have their individual picture taken during the day on Thursday, September 16th.

TWOONIES FOR TERRY FOX AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Our Terry Fox Run/Walk is scheduled for Friday, September 17th at Queenston, so stay tuned for further information.

MONTHLY FOOD/MILK ORDER FORM

Together, School Council and the school have designed a form that will assist and provide you with options and planning with one single payment. A combined order form will go home each month and it will include: milk, special lunches, fruit kabobs, popcorn and pizza days. If your child is away on a special luncheon day/ pizza day, please contact the office to make arrangements for pick-up, or the food items will be left in the staffroom fridge and distributed when your child returns to school. **This year a special sibling offer will be made. Please send one payment in for food orders but do not combine siblings on one order form.** School Council will provide you with further information on October's food order form.

VISIT THE LEARNING COMMONS AT SHERIDAN PARK

Our Learning Commons is an inviting place designed around a welcoming and informal place of learning. It provides assistance to students in a relaxed, inviting, yet enriched learning environment to support students in their use of information and research needs, in addition to helping them develop critical thinking and literacy skills. The Learning Commons combines individual and group study space with assistance from the teacher-librarian, computer site manager and other staff. Students will go to the Learning Commons to make their learning easier and more successful through learning how to research, write, and use available computer software. Come visit or check us out online! Mr. Diiorio is our teacher-librarian and computer site manager.

Instrumental Music

Does your son or daughter want to learn to play a musical instrument? Register now and join us in September 2010 for a school year of musical fun. Forms and information are available on the web at www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At Sheridan Park Public School, we believe parents are important and make a real difference to children's learning. When parents are involved children do better and achieve more.

School Council allows everyone involved in school life - parents, learners, teachers, support staff and the wider community - to work together to support the school. See you on Tuesday, September 28th.

STUDENT TEACHERS AND CO OP PLACEMENTS

We welcome student teachers from Brock University and Niagara College as well as high school co-ops throughout the school year!

ECO NEWS

We received Gold Status for 2009- 2010 school year. Litterless lunches, Greening & Energy are our key interests this year. We will continue to collect old cell phones for Tribes team points. Please contact Ms. Downs if you are interested in supporting our eco initiatives.

BASIC TUTORING:

Miss Derstine will be offering an after school math club for juniors and intermediates. Please stay tuned for further information.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Each student has the opportunity to be chosen for "Student of the Month." Every month we celebrate a new "Character Trait" with different criteria. Students demonstrating the "Character Trait" criteria will be selected as the "Student of the Month". These students are acknowledged and receive a certificate at our monthly/term awards assembly. Their names are also published in our monthly newsletter. Thank you to the Mandarin and Jack Astor's for their Student of the Month support. Our Skyhawk/Ecohawk students earn character trait "dog tags", also on a monthly basis. These tags are given out to students who demonstrate and model these traits. Students will be able to collect all ten tags over the course of the year. We are able to provide each student with a dog tag via our School and School Council fundraising.

TEAL TICKETS

Our program continues on a daily basis with Teal tickets to reward students for random acts of kindness demonstrated in our school community. Monthly draws are held.

PRINCIPAL'S LUNCHEON

A luncheon date is set with the principal and three students per term are selected by the staff to join Ms. Roberto. The luncheon awards and recognizes students in all three divisions that have demonstrated exemplary character.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Each student will receive a birthday token and birthday congratulations will be shared on the morning announcements.

HAWK TRIBES

Hawk Tribes are a way for students in every grade, from JK to Grade 8, to get together and compete as a team throughout the year in a variety of challenges. Challenges include: The Terry Fox Run, Spirit Days, Student of the Month/Term, Community Care Challenge, Fundraisers, Intramurals, sports teams and much more!

The purpose of our Hawk Tribes is to foster friendly competition among students, while still maintaining sportsmanship, positive attitudes, and respect for everyone. Each Hawk Tribe is lead by Staff and Grade student leads who set-up, organize and encourage their team in various intramural activities and team challenges. Tribe teams compete for the Grand Championship at the end of each term, where their Hawk Tribe championship plaque will be displayed in the school. Once a month, we with show our pride and spirit by wearing our team shirt. We are extremely proud of each Hawk Tribe and their efforts in making Sheridan Park a "Great Place to be!" Check out our team cheers online!

CHARACTER TRAIT

The character skill for the month of September is **Respect** - an attitude of caring about people and treating them with dignity. **You are practicing respect when you...**

- ✓ treat everyone the way you would like to be treated
- ✓ treat the property of others with special care
- ✓ honour other people's need for time and space to themselves
- ✓ speak courteously to everyone
- ✓ honour the rules of your family, school and country
- ✓ expect respect for your body and your rights

I am respectful. I treat others and myself as we deserve to be treated. I appreciate everyone and everything around me.

SHERIDAN PARK SPORTS & CLUBS

We have a dedicated coaching staff offering a variety of school sports, clubs and not to mention the various school wide campaigns throughout the year. Their time and dedication is greatly appreciated! Your support is also encouraged, so if you can assist us in any way, please contact our staff.

Sport	Teacher/Coach
Jr./Int. Cross Country	Mrs. Mongelluzzo
Jr. Co. Ed. Soccer	Mrs. DeLuca, Mr. Langelaan
Jr. Girls Volleyball Int. Girls Volleyball	Mrs. Trussell, Mrs. Breadner Ms. Osborne
Jr. Boys Volleyball Int. Boys Volleyball	Mlle Hedemann Ms. Kamendy
Int. Co. Ed. Volleyball	Ms. Osborne
Jr. Girls Basketball Int. Girls Basketball	Mrs. Barton Mr. Diiorio
Jr. Boys Basketball Int. Boys Basketball	TBD Ms. Osborne, Mr. Moore, Mr. Nelson
Gymnastics	Mrs. Mongelluzzo
Int. Flag Rugby	TBD
Jr. 3Pitch Int. 3 Pitch	Mrs. Mongelluzzo Mr. Diiorio
Co. Ed. Soccer	Mr Diiorio
Track and Field	Ms. Osborne, Mr. Diiorio, Mrs. Mongelluzzo

Club	Staff
AV Crew	Mr. Diiorio
Beading Club	Mrs. Mawson, Ms. Leip , Mrs. Barton
Breakfast/Snack Club	Mrs. MacTavish, Ms. Roberto, Mrs. Nakhooda
Career Day	Ms. Downs, Miss Derstine
Junior Basketball Clinic	Mrs. Barton
Games Club	Mrs. Trussell, Ms. Kamendy
Primary & Junior Choir	Ms. Leip, Miss Derstine
Junior & Int. Chess Club	Mlle Hedemann
Intermediate Debating & Spoken Word	Mr. Diiorio, Ms. Downs
Eco Club/Gardening Crew	Ms. Downs, Ms. Kamendy, Ms. Osborne, Ms. Roberto
Fitness Club	Mrs. Mongelluzzo
Int. Go Girls	Big Sisters, Ms. Roberto
Int. Boys Project Rewind	John Howard Society, Ms. Roberto
Holiday Concert Organizer	Ms. Downs
Hopscotch	Ms. Kamendy
Int. House League	Mr. Diiorio
Junior Keepsake Club	Mrs. Breadner
Lego Robotics	Mrs. Janzen
PALS	Ms. Osborne, Ms. Kamendy, Mrs. Trussell
Running Club	Mrs. Mongelluzzo, Mrs. Mawson
Rankin Run, DSBN Road race	Mrs. Mongelluzzo, Mrs. MacTavish
Silver Birch Reading Club	Mr. Diiorio, Mrs. Trussell
Skating	Mrs. Trussell, Ms. Roberto, Mrs. MacTavish
Sports Council	Ms. Osborne
Student Jobs	Ms. Roberto
Student Council	Ms. Roberto
Yearbook Club	Mlle Hedemann

How can I help my child with reading comprehension?

Making connections is a strategy used by teachers with students of all ages to help them better understand what they read. As we continue to focus on Reading for Meaning, you will notice in term 1 student work, anchor charts, etc. will focus on making connections.

Below is a list of questions to ask your children as they read or as you read to them to help them make better connections. Parents, you can help your child with reading by reinforcing the comprehension strategies taught at school. Research has shown that good readers use strategies while they read. Before reading, talk with your child about what they and you already know about the topic or what they think will happen or learn. Tell your child what you think about before you read, while you read, and after you read something.

After reading, discuss with your child their thoughts and opinions about the text. When applied consistently and patiently, these strategies will help comprehension dramatically. The key is to make comprehension explicit with strategy use. *Revised Ontario Language curriculum (2006)*

Help your child to make explicit, personal connections to the text they are reading. Simply encourage your child to make personal connections to the content of the book he/she is reading. You could even jot the connections on sticky notes in colorful magic markers and stick them in the book, or make a chart of all the connections.

There are three different kinds of connections we tend to make while reading: text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world.

Text-to-Self	Text-to-Text	Text-to-World
What does this remind you of in your own life?	What does this remind you of in another book you have read?	What does this remind you of in the real world?
What is this similar to in your life?	How is this similar to other books you have read?	How is this similar to things that happen in the real world?
How is this different from your life?	How is this different from other books you have read?	How is this different from things that happen in the real world?
Has something like this ever happened to you?	Have you read about something like this before?	How did this part relate to the world around you?
How does this make you feel?		
Text-to-self connections are easiest. We merely relate concepts in the book to aspects of our own lives. For example, "I love the lake in this book. It reminds me of our summer vacations when we always visited Muskoka."	Text-to-text connections are also fun and easy. Obviously, you just relate the book you're currently reading to another book you've read. Perhaps the characters in this book remind you of the characters in a book you read last week. Encourage your child to think of movies and TV shows to which they can relate their books, too!	Text-to-world connections. With these connections, you want to relate what you've just read to a larger, worldly phenomenon, and not just something specific to your own life. Encourage your child to think outside the box. Show them in compelling ways that other people may think and behave differently. This will develop over time. The more explicit you are with making text-to-world connections, the better your child will become at it.

ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIOS

The main goal of literacy assessment is to gather information to plan for improved student learning. There are objectives behind this main goal: 1. Determine what development is occurring; 2. Identify a student's strengths and needs in reading and writing; 3. Discover the power of teaching to target areas; 4. Learn more about the development of reading and writing; 5. Sharpen the quality of observations and confidence in these observations; 6. Have information about the student to share with others; 7. Assess program strengths and weaknesses.

Each student at Sheridan Park Public School has an assessment portfolio.

JK-3 Portfolio	Items in the portfolio
Oral Language:	Oral Language Checklist
Reading:	Print Concepts Assessment Phonemic Awareness Letter/Sound Identification High Frequency Sight words PM Benchmark Reading Records
Writing:	Spelling Inventory Ontario Writing Assessment Writing Attitude Inventory/ Self-Assessment Independent Alphabet Printing
Grade 4-8 Portfolio	Items in the portfolio
Reading:	CASI Fluency Assessment Word Reading Efficiency Reading Interests Inventory PM Benchmark Reading Record (if required)
Writing:	Spelling Inventory Writing Attitude Inventory/Self-Assessment Ontario Writing Assessment

This valuable assessment portfolio is time consuming for staff and they are wonderful about keeping them updated to ensure this assessment is done for each student. Please speak to your child's teacher or to Ms. Roberto if you have any questions regarding the assessment portfolios.