



SANTA ROSA FRENCH-AMERICAN CHARTER SCHOOL

Communiqué #5

February 24, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although the month of February is a short one, it was packed with events that continue to support the goals of our school. One of my goals for the school is to implement policies to foster independence in our children and promote a safe and nurturing environment. From staff observations and mine, we found that the drop off time in the morning should be a time for children to re-bond with each other from the previous day. It is also a time of interaction with the teachers and staff. By having only staff supervising the children in the morning, it is clearer to the students when seeking adult support. During rainy days, the children go into their classrooms at 8:15 AM and are supervised by duty teachers and classified staff. Also, we found that having sports equipment out in the morning created conflicts among the children and delayed their readiness to line up with their teachers and start their day. Thank you for supporting this new policy. We are all noticing a difference in student behavior in the morning.

We are continuing to educate the students in our Tool Box Program. We have had some recent assemblies to practice their tools. Our next assembly will be organized and presented by our student council. There will be skits and a song to feature the Garbage Can Tool and the Please and Thank You Tool. On February 8th, the founders of the Tool Box Program spoke to our parents about how to support the program at home. Our next Parent Education Night will focus on anti-bullying.

The 2nd trimester has just ended and teachers are busily working on the report cards. Report cards will be sent home with your child next week. Please return the signed manila envelope to their homeroom teacher. In this issue, there are articles and announcements about Reading Week, Traffic Safety, Library, and Testing.

Mr. Johnstone

Dates to Remember

3/17 Teacher In-service/No School

3/20-24 Spring Break/No School



February 27th – March 3th

Monday, Feb. 27th: Open the Door to Reading

- Hallways will be decorated with pictures of students and staff reading their favorite book.
- Classroom doors will be decorated as book covers

Tuesday, Feb. 28st: Reading Caterpillar

- Reading Caterpillar will grow as our students read through the week.

Wednesday, March 1st: Buddy Reading & Pajama Day

- Older students will read to younger students during the day.
- Don't forget it's Pajama DAY

Thursday, March 2nd: Guest Readers

- Special guest readers in French and English during the day.

Friday, March 3rd: Readable T-Shirt Day

- Wear a t-shirt with something to read on it! French or English.

All Week Long:

- D.E.A.R. (Drop everything and Read)
For 15 minutes, each day, the whole school will drop everything and read.

Please remember to bring a picture of your child reading his/her favorite book before February 22th and don't forget to sign up to read in French or in English to the students. (You can sign up more than once!)"





The library at SRFACS is a valuable resource for your students. As you know, my hours are limited, so to insure I can maintain the quality and selection of books available to our students, it would be a great help to have parent volunteers on a regular basis to assist in shelving books, straightening shelves and some dusting (I have Swiffers!). This would free me up to keep our collection up date and in good repair. If you have a bit of time, please consider helping in the library. Just register in the office and head over to the library – any amount of time is greatly appreciated!

Also, please remind your student return their library books on time! There is an unacceptable number of overdue books out. When your child does not return their book on time, it keeps them from being able to check out a new book and it keeps that book out of circulation for another student to enjoy.

Please email me (mmcullough@srcs.k12.ca.us) if you have any questions. Merci/Thank you! Melinda McCullough

Melinda McCullough
SRFACS Library

Traffic

Please remember that when a crossing guard is in the crosswalk it is illegal and unsafe to drive through the crosswalk. It is important to wait until the crossing guard is on the sidewalk before entering the crosswalk. There have been several instances lately, especially at the crosswalk on Doyle Park Dr., of cars violating this rule. Our crossing guards have had too many close encounters with cars. For the safety of the crossing guards and students, please respect the stop sign carried by the crossing guard.

2815 cvc: **Stop for Crossing Guard stop sign:** Requires vehicles to stop and remain stopped for the Crossing Guard stop sign while the Crossing Guard is crossing students and until the Crossing Guard returns to a place of safety (the sidewalk. *Remember to treat the Crossing Guard stop sign like a construction stop sign*). It also requires motorists and pedestrians to obey the directions of the Crossing Guard. (Wait on the sidewalk until pedestrians are told it is safe to cross. Cars to wait when directed by the Crossing Guard until told it is okay to go.)

Courtesy of the San Ramon Police Department at <http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/police/crossing.html>



TOOLBOX
BY DOVETAIL LEARNING

The Toolbox program is being implemented as we have student assemblies and a Parent Education Night. The founders of the program went through all of the 12 tools and explained to our parents how they can help at home. They received a handout and asked many great questions that helped guide our efforts to educate our SRFACS community.

On Friday February 24th, our student council ran the 4th Toolbox assembly. The assembly started with introductions of the student council members. They wore their new student council t-shirts and performed skits about the Please and Thank You tool and the Garbage Can tool. The assembly ended with the student council leading the student body in a Garbage Can song written by one of Tool Box staff. It was great to see student leaders work with our children. They felt very empowered. Thanks to Mrs. Johnstone who coached them on their skits and to Mrs. Jimenez who donated the shirts. Special thanks to Ms. Spita for getting us started with Tool Box. Mr. Le Rebours and I helped lead the assemblies and will continue to roll out the other tools with future events.

Please visit their website for more information.

www.dovetaillearning.org

Standardized Testing

We will be continuing to gather data about our student writing standards. We completed narrative writing at the beginning of the year and we will be giving a writing prompt on our second writing assessment that is opinion writing. Grade 2-6 English and French teachers will be administering this assessment in mid -March.

The California Common Core Smarter Balanced Test Window this year is from the beginning of April until the end of May. The test is for Grades 3-6 and they are tested in Math and English Language Arts. Ms. Van Prooyen and Mr. Johnstone are the testing coordinators and will publish a testing calendar in a future newsletter.