



Meadowbrook Elementary

November News

Dear Meadowbrook families

November is flying by (like all the other months!) and we are all taking advantage of this cold, sunny weather by exploring and learning outdoors as much as possible.

I am proud to announce that this year's Peace Squad is up and running. Interested and dedicated grade four and five students have taken two afternoons of training with CERA trainer, Gerry Baragar. They discussed the difference between power and leadership and how their job on the playground is to step in to help other students resolve their own problems. Mrs. French and I will be working with the Peace Squad each week to support them in their important leadership role at Meadowbrook.

On November 7 we had our Remembrance Day Assembly. It was well attended by Meadowbrook families and our students were an extremely respectful and polite audience. Local MP Fin Donnelly spoke to Meadowbrook students and divisions 1 & 2 sang two beautiful songs taught to them by our music teacher, Ms. Pak. There were presentations by students in Division 2 and students from division 1 recited In Flanders Fields. Laura Reale and Kirk Gummow from SD43 Aboriginal Education department spoke to us about the contribution of the First Nation contribution during the WWI and WWII. Thanks to all of our Meadowbrook community for coming together to honour and remember those who have sacrificed so much for us.

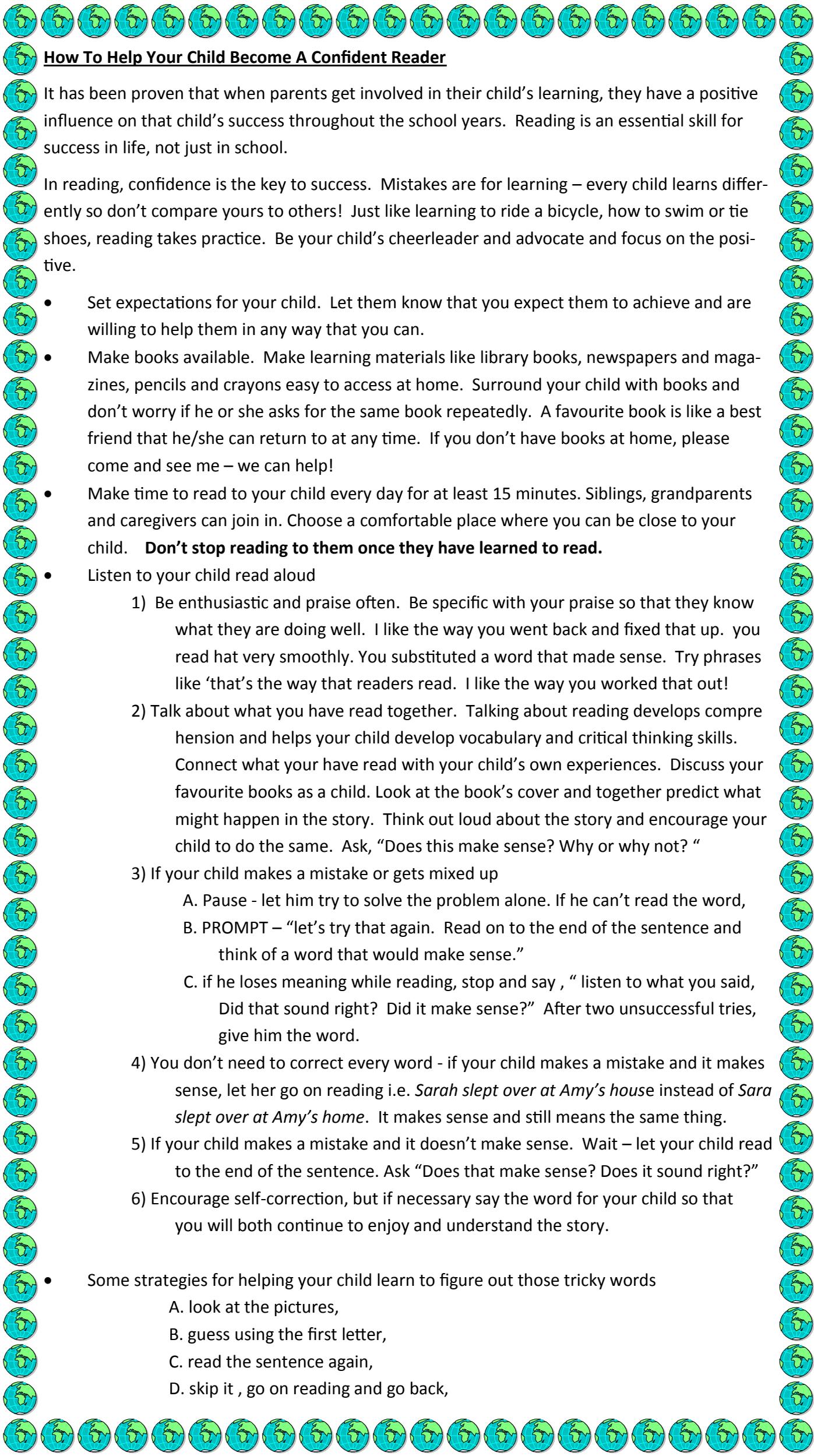
Next week we have **two early dismissals at 2:00 for student led conferences on November 19 and 20.** Please contact your teacher if you have not yet set up a time to visit your child's classroom.

During the **week of November 24 – 28, students will be receiving instruction in the martial arts,** with an emphasis on personal fitness, self-respect and respect for others. The information sheet and waiver went home this week and if you want your child to participate during gym class, the waiver will need to be returned to your child's classroom teacher. This is offered to us free of charge by West Coast Martial Arts Academy.

We have recently had two very entertaining performances presented at our school –last week we had the Dream Rider performance, sponsored by the City of Coquitlam, called Zero Heroes. This play promoted the idea that we can all be “zero heroes” by reducing, reusing and recycling. Friday, Cassie and Friends presented Kids on the Block with life-size puppets, letting our students have a greater understanding of juvenile arthritis, emphasizing the similarities between kids rather than the differences.

Save the date! We have plans in work for **our winter concert, to be held at 6:30 on December 18.** It will be a musical play called Snowtastic and promises to be a great evening!

Parking continues to be a serious problem at our school. **THE UPPER LOTS ARE FOR STAFF ONLY UNLESS YOU HAVE A SIGNED PARKING PASS FROM ME AND THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.** The bylaw officer and the RCMP will work together with us to ensure that our school area is a safe place for students.



How To Help Your Child Become A Confident Reader

It has been proven that when parents get involved in their child's learning, they have a positive influence on that child's success throughout the school years. Reading is an essential skill for success in life, not just in school.

In reading, confidence is the key to success. Mistakes are for learning – every child learns differently so don't compare yours to others! Just like learning to ride a bicycle, how to swim or tie shoes, reading takes practice. Be your child's cheerleader and advocate and focus on the positive.

- Set expectations for your child. Let them know that you expect them to achieve and are willing to help them in any way that you can.
- Make books available. Make learning materials like library books, newspapers and magazines, pencils and crayons easy to access at home. Surround your child with books and don't worry if he or she asks for the same book repeatedly. A favourite book is like a best friend that he/she can return to at any time. If you don't have books at home, please come and see me – we can help!
- Make time to read to your child every day for at least 15 minutes. Siblings, grandparents and caregivers can join in. Choose a comfortable place where you can be close to your child. **Don't stop reading to them once they have learned to read.**
- Listen to your child read aloud
 - 1) Be enthusiastic and praise often. Be specific with your praise so that they know what they are doing well. I like the way you went back and fixed that up. you read that very smoothly. You substituted a word that made sense. Try phrases like 'that's the way that readers read. I like the way you worked that out!
 - 2) Talk about what you have read together. Talking about reading develops comprehension and helps your child develop vocabulary and critical thinking skills. Connect what you have read with your child's own experiences. Discuss your favourite books as a child. Look at the book's cover and together predict what might happen in the story. Think out loud about the story and encourage your child to do the same. Ask, "Does this make sense? Why or why not?"
 - 3) If your child makes a mistake or gets mixed up
 - A. Pause - let him try to solve the problem alone. If he can't read the word,
 - B. PROMPT – "let's try that again. Read on to the end of the sentence and think of a word that would make sense."
 - C. if he loses meaning while reading, stop and say , " listen to what you said, Did that sound right? Did it make sense?" After two unsuccessful tries, give him the word.
 - 4) You don't need to correct every word - if your child makes a mistake and it makes sense, let her go on reading i.e. *Sarah slept over at Amy's house* instead of *Sara slept over at Amy's home*. It makes sense and still means the same thing.
 - 5) If your child makes a mistake and it doesn't make sense. Wait – let your child read to the end of the sentence. Ask "Does that make sense? Does it sound right?"
 - 6) Encourage self-correction, but if necessary say the word for your child so that you will both continue to enjoy and understand the story.
- Some strategies for helping your child learn to figure out those tricky words
 - A. look at the pictures,
 - B. guess using the first letter,
 - C. read the sentence again,
 - D. skip it , go on reading and go back,

E. sound it out,
F. ask someone.

- Help our child to select books that are not too difficult – reading fluency happens when children can read easily without lots of starts and stops. Follow the ‘rule of five’ – if there are five words on a page which your child cannot read, select another book or read this one to your child.
- Encourage independent reading as well as shared reading
- Show that reading is important by reading in front of your child. Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions and brochures, menus, traffic signs. Help him or her look up information– on the computer, in dictionaries and atlases. Share greeting cards, letters and email messages with your child and show that reading pervades every aspect of our lives.

You should read to your child every night because

- when you hold them and give them this attention, they know you love them.
- reading to them will encourage them to be better readers.
- children’s books are so entertaining that they are fun for adults too.
- illustrations in kids’ books often rank with the best , giving children a lifelong appreciation for good art.
- books are one way of passing on your values.
- books will enable your child’s imagination to soar.
- until your child learns to read independently, they will think you are magic!
- every teacher and librarian they will ever encounter will thank you.
- they might turn off the TV.
- you’ll get the chance to read some great books that you may have missed when you were a

Important Dates

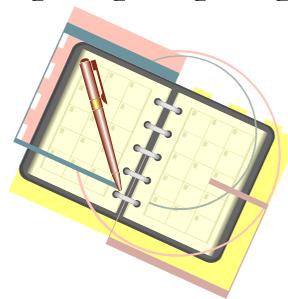


Photo Retakes	Wednesday, November 19th at 1pm
Early Dismissal—Conferences	Wednesday, November 19th at 2pm
Pizza Day	Thursday, November 20th
Early Dismissal—Conferences	Thursday, November 20th at 2pm
Martial Arts Begins	Monday, November 24th (please return waiver)
PAC Holiday Gift Shop	Nov.25th & 26th (8:30-9/12:20-1/3-3:45)
Math Mania	Thursday, November 27th at 6:30—8pm
Treat Day	Thursday, December 11th at 3pm
Winter Concert	Thursday, December 18th at 6:30
Winter Break	December 22nd—January 2 School Closed
School Reopens	Monday, January 5th