

Kids win when parents  
get involved

# St. Francis de Sales School Council News

February 2007



## Did you know...

International Literacy Day was established in 1965 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and is celebrated around the world each year on *September 8*. On this day, governments, business and labour groups, non-governmental organizations, communities and individuals are encouraged to recognize the importance of literacy and to play an active role in improving the literacy skills of Canadians.

Every year on *January 27*, families and communities across Canada celebrate ABC Canada Family Literacy Day. This event, created in 1999 by ABC Canada Literacy Foundation, is also a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family.

The best thing about both of these initiatives is that they are not limited to one day a year and you don't have to participate in a formal event to be a part of them. Read on to learn more about what you can do to promote literacy at home...and have fun doing it!!

## Make Literacy a Family Thing

*ABC Canada Literacy Foundation offers the following tips and activities to encourage family literacy at home:*

**Sous Chef:** Following recipes is a great way to improve both reading and math skills. Ask your children to read the instructions out loud and to help measure the ingredients when making a treat for the family.

**Game On!:** Set up a family game tournament, where children are encouraged to read instructions and keep score.

**Expand Your Vocabulary:** Look up the meaning of funny words, like "onomatopoeia" and "Chinook" and test your family's word power.

**The Count:** Have your child count out the change required to make a purchase and help reinforce the importance of math in everyday life.

**Watch a Book:** Many children's stories have been adapted for the big screen. Read these stories with your kids first, then watch the movie.

**Reading Buddies:** Encourage your child to practice reading to the family dog, cat or goldfish. Pets are great listeners and don't make a judgment if a mistake is made!

**Travel the World:** Take your children to the library and use your library card as a passport. Check out books on different countries to learn about their geography and traditions.

**Go Surfing:** Navigate the Internet with your child to find fun and educational websites.

**Sing-along:** Put on a CD and sing along together. Singing helps develop a greater awareness of rhyme, words and

sounds.

**Use it or Lose it!:** Reading is like a muscle, if you don't exercise it often, you will not maintain the same level of reading ability as you get older. Keep your mind active by doing crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches.

For additional family literacy tips visit  
[www. abc-canada.org](http://www.abc-canada.org)

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# Literacy Untamed

**1—Fashion statement!** Wearable art is in. Get everyone in the family to write a line or two from a story or poem on an old pair of jeans.

**2—Who's line is it?** Write a story together. Each person writes a paragraph and passes it on. The next person adds a paragraph, building on the one before it. Once the story is complete read it aloud.

**3—Bring it on!** Set up a family tournament weekend where everyone takes a turn selecting one board game that is played as a family. Each win is worth a point. At the end of the weekend, add up the points and the person with the highest score wins the tournament!

**4—PJ Party!** Invite the family to a pyjama party in the living room. Ask everyone to come in their pyjamas, sleeping bags in hand and their favourite bedtime story to share.

**5—Oh balderdash!** See who can come up with the funniest word from the dictionary.

**6—Who am I?** Dress up as one of your favourite book characters and read a few of their lines from the book. See if anyone can guess who you are.

**7—Knock, knock!** Create a family joke journal by interviewing all family members and writing down their favourite jokes. Be sure to include Aunt Bertha and Uncle Bart!

**8—Hey good looking, what's cooking?** Have members of the family make a recipe together. Have one person read the directions, another measure the ingredients and someone else mix everything together.

**9—Scrabble around the world!** See how many provinces, territories and cities you can spell out using all of the tiles from a Scrabble game.

**10—Shout! Shout!** Let it all out! Create a game for road trips where you shout out words you see on billboards, road signs and on the sides of trucks.



## What's Happening...

**Attention Grade 8 students / parents:** For those looking to attend St. John Catholic High School in September, there will be an open house at the school in Perth on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

**Next School Council Meeting:** Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Some of the items being discussed include family fun night, parent involvement initiatives, constitution review and an exciting new project for lent. Come join us to hear more.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT:** More help is needed to ensure that this popular event continues. Please complete and return the attached form to the school by Friday, March 9, 2007.

**Needed!!** We are looking for volunteers to help with head lice checks on March 21, 22 and 23. Training is provided on site. If you can help out on one of these days, please contact Debbie Shea at (613)283-5349.

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC):** PIC met on January 31 and will be presenting their recommendations to School Council at the meeting on February 28.

## Contact us:



If you are interested in volunteering or you would like to learn more about the St. Francis de Sales School Council, please contact Debbie Shea at 613-283-5349 or approach any member of council.

### 2006-07 School Council Members:

Debbie Shea—Parish Rep./Chair, Connie Smith—Vice Chair, Margaret West—Treasurer, Shelley Nadeau—Secretary, Tammy Demidoff—Parent Liaison Rep., Bernice Chiniborch—Community Rep, Patricia Meagher—Non-teaching Rep., Susan Hoysted—Teaching Rep., Alex Bujacz—Principal, Nancy Fontyn, Tracey Stringer, Debi Cunningham, Monica Wilson, Lorraine Fenn, Dorothy Hudson, Cyndi Galazzo, Debbie Burns, Melody Lefebvre