

# Stewart Shuttle

Volume 23, Issue 2

October, 2010

## The Principal's Position

### Introducing: SuccessMaker!

Stewart students are excited to begin *SuccessMaker*, our new computer program. Kindergarten through third grade students have started the "placement" process which will determine the optimum starting point for both math and reading. This computer program supports the attainment of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and emphasizes problem-solving and creative thinking. SuccessMaker is grounded in current research and allows the teacher to access detailed reports to gauge and respond to student performance. The content is delivered through a personalized math and reading program geared to meet the individual's needs. We are still working out a few technological kinks but are thrilled to have this new program at Stewart!

Rhoda Harris, Stewart Principal

## TITLE TIDBITS

### SCHEMA



A very important part of reading is using what you know and adding it to what you read. We call this using your **schema (ske ma)**. Your schema is another word for **your background knowledge**.

It is all of the life experiences you bring to your reading. It's all you have read or seen, your adventures, experiences and relationships in your life.

As children learn to read they need to understand what words and sentences mean. To do this they have to use what they already know and connect it to what they are reading.

There are some very easy ways to help your child build his/her background knowledge.

For example, if you are reading a dog story together and your memory is sparked by an experience you had, you could say, "**This part reminds me of ...**" and you finish by telling the story. This helps your child connect this part of the story with real life events. It builds his/her schema. As you read a page or paragraph, you could say, "**That reminds me of this book I read, or this story I heard....**" or "**That makes me remember when.....**" After you have modeled using your schema, ask your child "**Does this book remind you of anything or make you remember when...?**"

Children learn something new by making connections with what they know. They need time to process what they are reading and talk about it. Children will remember stories, books, and information better if they are meaningful. If they are given time to talk about connections, think about the knowledge that they will gain!



## NUMBER SENSE

Understanding numbers and how they relate to each other is important for developing good number sense. Your child is currently looking at numbers in many different ways by doing activities such as those below. Help your child continue to develop number sense by practicing some of these activities at home.

- Challenge your child to describe numbers in different ways. For example, there are many ways to describe the number 12: one less than 13, 6 and 6, 1 ten and 2 ones, and so on. Start with small numbers and progress to larger ones.
- Look for numbers in your surroundings. In addition to all the numbers inside your home, search for numbers as you travel. Compete to find a special number, the most numbers, the largest numbers, and so on.
- Practice counting by twos, threes, fives, tens, and other numbers. This helps your child develop number order and prepares him/her for multiplication.
- Help your child learn to compare numbers by investigating prices at neighborhood businesses. For example, when selecting food at a restaurant, ask question like these: Which item costs more? Which item costs less? Which two items cost about the same? At the market, show your child how to compare prices of like food items.
- Play games like Bingo or Go Fish with number cards. Children will learn to recognize and name numbers. Other card games like War help children understand the concept of more of less.

Children develop number sense by using numbers and relating them to their own lives. Have fun exploring the world of numbers with your child.

Title I Teachers

## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

My name is Tara Henriksen and I am the new 3-year-old pre-school teacher at Stewart Elementary. Currently I am also teaching the 4-year-old pre-school class for Mrs. Uitermarkt while she is on maternity leave. Before I moved here I taught first grade for the past three years and kindergarten for 10 years in Lake Geneva, WI. I have my Masters in Education, my Early Childhood birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade certificate, and an Elementary Education degree. I have two children who now attend Stewart. Ori is in Mrs. Bombei's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class and Charlie is in Mrs. Hippen's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. We all love Stewart! In my free time I enjoy scrapbooking, antiques, fishing and four wheeling. I will be getting married this fall to Dan Luers who graduated from Washington High School in 1990. He currently works for Liqui-Grow here in Washington. We look forward to being part of this friendly community.



## GUIDANCE CORNER

We are off to a wonderful start at Stewart Elementary! We are excited to have all of the children back at school. It has been an amazing summer and it is always thrilling to see how quickly all of the students settle into the routine of school. Kids truly are unbelievable!

You as parents are your child's first and most important teacher. We ask for your help in teaching the importance

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of daily school attendance. The child who is not in school cannot learn the material as well. No “make-up” work the teacher can give will replace the original planned lesson and the class discussion centered around the lesson. Regular school attendance is necessary. You can help!

We as teachers want to teach every child, every day. We know that future success depends on a solid educational background, which can only be gained through good school attendance. Help us help your child! We care!

Attending school encourages:

1. Responsible Behavior
2. Better Grades
3. Sense of Belonging
4. Development of Talents
5. Self-Confidence
6. Good Citizenship
7. School Pride
8. High School Graduation
9. Further Education
10. Future Employment

Tips for parents:

1. Let your child know you think school is important.
2. Talk with your child about why it's important to attend school regularly.
3. Regardless of age, set a regular bedtime.
4. Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school.
5. Provide an alternate plan of transportation for getting your child to school on time.
6. Schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments before and after school hours if possible.
7. If your child must be out of school for part of the day, allow him/her to miss only that time necessary for the appointment.
8. Do not view tardiness as acceptable behavior.
9. Be sure make-up work is completed promptly.
10. Establish a regular study time for your child.
11. Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
12. Support school rules and consequences for being absent and/or tardy.

Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

We will be teaching, learning, practicing, and celebrating the six pillars of character throughout the year with classroom lessons. Stewart is full of “T.R.R.F.C.C.” kids. Below is an introduction to the pillars and the character traits for each:

**Trustworthiness** – Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat or steal. Do what you say you'll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal—stand by your family, friends, and country.

**Respect** – Treat others with respect by following the Golden Rule. Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements.

**Responsibility** – Do what you are supposed to do. Persevere—keep on trying! Always do your best. Use self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act—consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

**Fairness** – Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded; listen to others. Don't take advantage of others. Don't blame others carelessly.

**Caring** – Be kind. Be compassionate and show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

**Citizenship** – Do your share to make your school and community better. Cooperate. Stay informed. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year at Stewart Elementary. Thank you for sharing your amazing children with us!!!

## BOOK FAIR

Come to our annual Scholastic Book Fair! Check out our super selections!

“Reading Saves The Day!”

Where: Stewart Elementary  
When: October 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

The book fair will be located in the Stewart Elementary Media Center. Stop and visit us during Parent/Teacher conferences! Hours of operation are from 4 – 8 p.m.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### October - Trustworthiness Month

Tuesday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> -