

SKYBLUE MESA PARENT NEWSLETTER

SKYBLUE MESA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A California Distinguished school

28040 Hardesty Street

Canyon Country, California 91351

Phone: (661)298-3260 Fax (661)298-3256; email dbohn@saugus.k12.ca.us

Volume 3 Number 27

March 16, 2010

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

You hear a lot about “family time,” but what does it really mean, and why is it important? Learn the essentials by reading these tips:

TV time, surprisingly, can be turned into family time. You wouldn't think that watching a TV show or movie with your children could be counted as family time but, with a little bit of creative effort, it can be. Use commercial breaks to mute the sound and talk about what you're watching. Share your feelings about whether the story is believable. Ask their opinions about what they think will happen next. See if they can compare what you're viewing with the story plots in other movies or books.

Turn everyday chores into a time to bond. The key to making quality time out of the most ordinary everyday chores (like cooking, picking up, cleaning, and doing laundry) is to turn them into opportunities to talk with your children. Folding your child's sports clothes together can lead into a conversation about how the team is doing and how he or she feels about the activity. Grocery shopping can spark an interest in teaching your child to prepare a meal.

Remember to chat, rather than interrogate. The quickest way to shut down good family time is to turn it into a type of police interrogation. Certainly there may be times when you need to prod your child for answers about things that are concerning you, but make sure that during casual family time together you keep the “interviewing” to a minimum and concentrate on relaxed conversations.

Homework time can be a time to bond, too. Try to schedule your bill-paying and other household paperwork for when your children are doing their homework. Give them a sense that you're all in it together—it's just that each of you has a different kind of work. You'll be providing encouragement just by being with them while they work, and being available if they have questions or need extra help.

One-on-one time is extra special. If you have more than one child, try to find time each week to do something special alone with each of them. It can be as simple as a walk after dinner or an out-of-the-ordinary errand (you'd be surprised how many children find it fascinating to go along to the auto mechanic, for example). Just showing them that you value them as individuals can mean the world to them.

Split households need to unite in their commitment. If you and your child's other parent live separately, try to make an agreement that each parent will work on spending quality family time with each child each week. Discuss how quality time means interacting with the child, not just being in the same household.

Games never go out of style. Board games and card games are ideal ways to get families together to relax and have fun as a group. Look for games that appeal to your child's interest and age level (garage sales can be goldmines for inexpensive games that kids have outgrown), and set aside a bit of time every week to play a few rounds.

Yes, you've got a lot to do—and so do your children. But when you think about it, there's really no better way to spend your time than by strengthening the bonds between your family members. The pay-off is priceless.

Debbie Bohn, Principal

Skyblue Mesa's Health Week

Skyblue Mesa's Health Week will be March 22nd - 26th. We are looking for parents to help with lunch time physical activities. Our three lunches run from 11:25am-1:15pm. We are also hoping for parent help with passing out snacks before school from 7:15am-8:15am on Walk to School Day, Wednesday, March 24th. If you are able to help, please contact Nikki Marikta @ 661-510-6450 or msdprincess@yahoo.com

Each day has a designated color to wear and bring the same color healthy snack:

Red Monday, March 22nd
Orange Tuesday, March 23rd
Yellow Wednesday, March 24th
Walk to School Day
Green Thursday, March 25th
Blue or Purple Friday, March 26th

STAR Sample Question Website

Just a reminder, STAR TESTING will begin in May. You can find sample questions for the test at:

<http://starsamplequestions.org/index.html>

Parent Volunteer Needed for Marquee

Skyblue Mesa needs someone to update the front Marquee weekly. Please call the School Office if you can spare fifteen minutes a week to help.

Full Day Kindergarten at Skyblue Mesa

Full Day Kindergarten, 8:00am-2:00pm, will be at Skyblue Mesa for 2010-2011 school year. Please bring Original Birth Certificate, two utility bills or lease/escrow papers for proof of address, immunization record, and verification of results of TB Test.

Help the Children

For the month of March, we will collect canned fruit. Thank you.

Dates to Remember

Thursdays, March 18

Mrs. Egar & Mrs. Magon's Class Play
6:30pm - 7:30pm/Big MPR

Friday, March 19

Student Store/During Lunch

Monday, March 22

PTO General Meeting/6:30pm

Tuesday, March 23

Spring Pictures
Sixth Grade Panoramic Picture

PTO Coldstone Night

Sixth Grade Parent Information Meeting / 7:00pm-8:00pm
Sierra Vista/MPR

Thursday, March 25

Ho Down Performance/4th Grade
Big MPR / 6:00pm-7:00pm

Friday, March 26

All Kindergarten / 8:00am-11:20am

Student Store/During Lunch

Monday, March 29

Site Council Meeting/4:00pm

Thursday, April 1

MINIMUM DAY
Grades 1-6/Dismissal/12:26pm
All Kindergarten / 8:00am-11:20am

OPEN HOUSE / 6:30pm-8:00pm
Basket Auction