

# Stewart Shuttle

*Stewart's Vision Statement:*

*"Stewart School is a nurturing, safe and positive community that respects and values all individuals and inspires lifelong learning."*

Volume 23, Issue 9

May 2011

## THE PRINCIPAL'S POSITION

### Keep Kids Learning During the Summer

**Set a reading time every day.** Set aside a certain time every day where everyone turns off the computer, TV, music, and video games, and spends 15 minutes or more reading. (As busy as parents are, it's important that you participate as well, even if you just read the newspaper.)

• **Get great recommendations on books for your child.** Check out the American Library Association's lists on Summer Reading and Learning for Children at [www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreadingcommendedreading.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreadingcommendedreading.htm). Be sure to sign your kids up for library summer book clubs, too!

• **Be "international."** Set aside one or two nights during the summer to have an international evening. Together, find recipes from a different nation and put together a special meal. Learn a few basic words in that country's language and find a children's book or an encyclopedia article that gives information on what life is like in that country. Get out a world map or a globe and show them where the country is and talk about what you'd want to visit if you could go there.

• **Incorporate "thinking" into traveling.** If your family is able to take a vacation during the summer, include stops at a few places that sneak in learning, along with fun. Zoos, children's museums, and historic sites are educational as well as entertaining. For bonus learning, have your children help you plot out the trip using maps or an atlas. Older children can tally up the miles, keep track of expenses, or figure out gas mileage.

• **Participate in sports/exercise.** With hours of free time every day, there's always time to build in some physical activity. Even if your child can't participate in a local sports league or community-based team, there are plenty of ways to get exercise—from jumping rope to family walks.

There are wonderful resources available through schools, libraries, and on the Internet to help families keep their children's brains "alive" during the dog days of summer. Even though it takes a little bit of effort on your part, the payoff, in terms of their education, is beyond measure.

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## THE GUIDANCE CORNER

It is my hope that over the summer months, you will have the opportunity to continue regular communication with your child(ren). Talking with them about their day-to-day lives will make it much easier to bring up the harder topics, when the time is right.

1. Listen. Make eye contact with your child, and let them know you are paying attention. If it is the end of a long day and you need time to relax, say no. Explain that you need a few minutes to unwind, and then you will be ready to give your full attention.
2. Do activities together. Do chores together and talk while you are working. Or, run to the grocery store together – car rides can be a great time to spark up conversation.
3. Set up regular family meetings. Use this time to let every member of your family discuss what is on their mind.
4. Role-play with your child. Simulate many different situations. Explain how to think through situations and emphasize the potential consequences (positive and negative) of their choices.
5. Support your child in everything they do. Regularly encouraging and supporting your child in school, sports, and extracurricular activities shows them that you support them.

I would like to thank all of the Stewart students for a fabulous 2010-2011 school year! I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer as they spend time resting, relaxing, and rejuvenating.

Mrs. Knowles  
Counselor

## IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

5/9 – Stewart Booster Meeting @ 5:30  
5/12 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (students only)  
5/13 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip – Marr Park  
5/16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Day  
5/17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip – Cuddeback Farm  
5/19 – Preschool Graduation 6:00 – 7:00  
5/20 – Kindergarten Field Trip – Marr Park  
5/26 – Last day of school – 1:10 dismissal

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## A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

With the unpredictable spring weather, make sure you send jackets and/or sweatshirts with your students. They may need them in the morning, especially on these chilly days.

Hopefully, the weather will soon warm up. With warmer weather comes more outdoor activities. Remember to use insect repellent when outside especially at dusk. This will help keep those pesky mosquitoes at bay! Sunscreen is also very important when outdoors, especially between the hours of 10am and 2pm, when the sun is most intense. Also, drink lots of water during the summer months. When you sweat in the hot summer weather, you can become dehydrated. Drinking water will keep you well hydrated and able to enjoy the great outdoors.

Bicycling is great exercise and a great way to get to the pool. Make sure you wear your helmet and watch very carefully for traffic. Hopefully, you and your family will be taking a trip this summer!!! If you do, remember to always fasten your seat belt, even if you are just going to the city pool, parks or library.

Whatever your summer plans may include, enjoy spending time together! Here is hoping you make many happy memories this summer! Stay safe and I will see you next fall!

Shelly Hoffman  
Stewart Elementary, RN

## Thanks to Stewart

A few months ago, Stewart hosted a food drive and coin collection for HACAP. We began collecting on February 14<sup>th</sup> and continued the project through March 11<sup>th</sup>. Last month, we received the following thank you letter in the mail:

*Dear Stewart School Students and Staff,  
Thank you so much for your generous contributions of food, paper products, money, etc to the HACAP Food Assistance Programs. Your unselfish giving will help Washington County families in their time of need. We sincerely appreciate your kindness.*

*RenElla Crawford  
Washington County HACAP*

## Summer Tutoring

If you are interested in a tutor for your child over the summer, please call the Stewart office at (319) 653-3244 after Monday, May 16. A list of available tutors is currently being compiled and we would be happy to mail, fax, or email it to you at your request.

Stewart Office

## TITLE TIDBITS

**Synthesizing** is a combination of all of the strategies we have discussed that allows the students to retell a story and really connect with it. This involves sharing, recommending, and criticizing books they have read. They realize that as they read, their thinking changes until they get to the end of a book. It is very much like an active summary of the story.

The student reads the story and determines what is important to remember, while using all of the other strategies we have talked about – some will be used at the same time. Then (s)he adds his/her own meaning by asking him/herself, "What does this mean to me?" This helps to deepen the student's thinking as well as his/her understanding of what is being read.

### \* What can I do as a parent?

You can help your child with synthesizing by asking him/her to retell the story. Help him/her to identify the essential storyline and ask him/herself, "What does this mean to me?"

Children see the usefulness of mathematics in everyday life when they learn how to measure. Here at school we weigh objects, measure the volume of containers, record temperature readings, and experiment with linear measurement. Help your child practice measurement skills at home. Call your child's attention to measurements by discussing the relative size of object. You could say, "Which is taller, the refrigerator or the kitchen door?" Or, make other simple comparisons. Confirm your child's guesses by actually measuring.

Your child can tell you about the nonstandard objects we have used for measuring, such as our feet, hands, pencils, and paper clips. We are also using standard measures such as rulers, yardsticks, and meter sticks. The following ideas will help you experiment with measurement at home.

1. Measure areas in or around your house with footsteps. Compare your steps to your child's.
2. Compare the relative sizes of family members. Whose feet are the longest? The widest? Who has the longest hair? Who is the tallest?
3. Look for weight information on food packages. Point it out to your child and challenge him/her to find the information on other packages. Put cereal boxes in order from heaviest to lightest or lightest to heaviest. Ask such questions as, How tall is the box? (length) How big is the front? (area) How far is it around the front of the box? (perimeter)
4. To give your child a sense of longer distances, discuss distances when driving. Tell your child to guess when you have driven a mile. Determine how far it is from your house to school. Point out road signs that tell the distance to the next town.
5. When you're cooking, let your child help measure ingredients.

Measurement is important! Look for opportunities to measure and to use measurement words with your child.

Title I Teachers