



A monthly publication provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education.

# Resources for Families

**February 2012**

## **How busy parents can be involved in learning**

Want your children to do better in school? Stay connected and involved with their school. Recognizing how busy everybody is today, here are some strategies for time-pressed parents who want to stay involved in their child's education.

## **How to help your kids with school**

### **Be a role model**

Show your children that intellectual pursuit and curiosity are natural and positive. If your children ask questions, help find the answers. Let your children see you reading. Spend an hour at least one evening a week reading as a family without the television set as background noise.

### **Set aside a study space**

Make it easy for your children to learn at home by providing a quiet, well lit homework center and a time set aside for homework to be done.

### **Volunteer outside school hours**

Even if you work during the day, you may still be able to help as a volunteer by working at home or assisting with an evening program. No special training is needed to be a volunteer, but you might learn new skills as part of your involvement.

### **Keep track of progress**

Track your children's progress by attending parent-teacher conferences, asking to see work samples, and attending open houses. Check with your children's teachers to see if their progress is available via the Internet.

### **Get involved**

Get involved on a school or jurisdiction level advisory committee. Committee meetings are often held during the evening. You can help shape your children's education through your involvement. Committee openings are announced in school newsletters, on our Web site and in the local newspapers. You can also call the school or jurisdiction to let them know of your general interests. You could also join the school council at your children's schools, and help out when you can.

### **Stay informed**

Keep yourself informed. Read school and jurisdiction newsletters and visit school and jurisdiction Web sites. They're full of useful and timely information.

Keep up with the school board's actions, and communicate with board members frequently. Otherwise, they won't be able to take your point of view into consideration. School board members are people just like you who have been elected to direct the course of our schools. They are as close as your phone.

### **Praise your children**

When your children make progress at school, when you see something they've done well or are making a concerted effort at, be sure to notice and praise them.