

Cantiague Connection

October, 2005



Dear Parents,

Albert Einstein once stated, "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." While Einstein might have been a bit modest with this statement, learning how to solve problems helps train children's brains and teaches them to tackle and stay with anything that comes their way.

Here are some simple strategies your child can use to become a better observer and problem solver:

- **Put things in categories.** Start with simple things like rocks, coins, socks, or silverware. Then work up to more difficult items so that your child looks for commonalities, and specific ways that items go together. After categorizing, ask your child to express in words why he chose to sort the items in this particular manner.
- **Put events in categories.** What were the five best experiences your child had in 2005? What were the biggest weather or sports stories this year? Questions like these help children organize the tremendous amount of information that comes their way each and every day.
- **Make charts.** Children can use charts to list positive and negative reasons for choices. This process helps them deal with decisions in an analytical manner, and forces them to think about their choices before making decisions. Other charts can be utilized to determine the steps necessary to reach a goal or a process that will be used to complete a task.
- **Observe carefully.** Teach your child to be an observer of the world around her. Try playing "What's Wrong Here," after setting the table with just spoons and knives, without forks. Another game might involve describing an object and challenging your child to name it from the description.

The ability to problem-solve is one of the most valuable skills we can give our children. It is a skill that each of us must use on a daily basis, so why not start building capability and confidence at a young age?

Sincerely,

Barbara Bauer

Clubs

Club notices will be sent out on October 11th. Students should bring their responses back to school as soon as possible. Clubs will begin the week of November 7th.

Emergency Evacuation Drill

As part of school district safety plans, each district must designate a date on which students will take part in an emergency evacuation drill. The Jericho drill will take place on Wednesday, October 12th. On that date, dismissal will be fifteen minutes earlier than our usual dismissal.

Halloween Activities

The annual Halloween Party will take place at Cantiague School on Friday evening, October 28, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE CHANGE ON YOUR DISTRICT CALENDAR.* The PTA has many exciting and fun-filled activities planned for that evening.

Cantiague Book Fair/PTA Meeting

On October 19, 20, and 21 our PTA will host a book fair for all students. Parents are invited to a preview from 6-7 PM on October 18th. The PTA Meeting will follow at 7:30 PM. Please try to join us for the evening.

SEPTA Meeting Date Change

Please note that the date and time of the October SEPTA Meeting has been changed to Thursday, October 27th, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will take place at Cantiague School, and the speaker is Mary Rocchio, who will discuss Parental Strategies for Social Success in the Classroom, on the Ball Field and in Cyberspace.

Dates to Remember

October 3-10 PTA Coat Drive
October 4, 5 School closed
October 7 Kindergarten Free Pizza Lunch
October 10 School closed
October 11 Field Trip, Grade 1
Club Letters Distributed
October 12 Field Trip, 5C
State Mandated Emergency
Evacuation Drill
October 13 School closed
October 14 PTA Executive Committee
Kindergarten begins buying lunch
October 18 3A, 3C Field Trip
Book Fair Preview, 6-7 PM
PTA Meeting 7:30 PM
October 19 3B Field Trip
October 19-21 Cantiague PTA Book Fair
October 20 Compact Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM
Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 PM,
MS Library
October 24-28 Student Council Campaign
October 27 Kindergarten Field Trip
SEPTA Meeting, Cantiague School,
7:30 PM
October 28 Halloween Party, 6:30 PM
October 29 Family Photo Day
October 31 Student Council Assembly

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