

Calling All Dads!

Come Join the DOGS Tonight!

Calling all dads! The D.O.G.S. are back—Dads of Great Students, that is—and the dads-and-kids pizza party is tonight! Bring the kids and come on down to the cafeteria from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. as we kick off our fourth year of the Watch D.O.G.S. Program, which invites dads, grandpas, uncles and special friends to volunteer one or more days at our school. There is no charge for the pizza, and following dinner, dads will view a brand new video on the Watch D.O.G.S. program and sign up for dates to volunteer while students enjoy some activity next door in the gym. Dads will have an opportunity to fill out the Washington State Patrol screening and ask questions about the program.

WATCH D.O.G.S. Across America is a national program intended to reconnect dads with kids at school. Organizers at our school include Ron Angelot, Dean Timboe, Matt Aldrich and Cory Pogue. They shared three of the program's goals:

- Raise the banner for positive fathering through the forum of schools across America and the world.
- Awaken fathers to the values and benefits of committed fathering.
- Change culture to where every child has a father or father figure to connect with in a positive way at school.

Mr. Angelot, in charge of scheduling, described what dads will experience during a typical day at school: Dads arrive at school, receive a special introduction during morning announcements, pose for a photo with their child, and follow a schedule which allows time for volunteering in the classroom, eating in the lunchroom, joining students at recess, walking around the campus perimeter, and completing an on-line survey at the end of the day.

Dads who want to participate but cannot attend the pizza event tonight are encouraged to contact Ron Angelot at ron@angelot-family.com (or at 253-431-1791). We hope every dad has an opportunity to participate in his child's education for at least one day this school year! All dads, grandpas and special friends of Sherwood Forest students are welcome!

Accelerated Reader: What Every Parent Needs to Know

Where can you find a program that:

- motivates children to read, read, read;
- offers a short computer quiz for more than 120,000 titles so we know that kids understand what they read; and
- offers lots of rewards and incentives for the books your children read?

Well of course, it's **Accelerated Reader**, or **AR** for short, and every Sherwood Forest Student gets to participate!

This is our second year of using Accelerated Reader school-wide. Reading skills are so important to a child's school success, and there is no better strategy for improving reading than to read, read, read! Therefore every Sherwood Forest student will be expected to read for a minimum of 20-25 minutes each day. Then after students read a book, they will come to school and take a short quiz on the computer. AR points are awarded for the length of the book, as well as the number of questions students answer correctly. With their points, students will earn colorful beads for their AR necklace, as well as other prizes throughout the year. And best of all, they will gain excellent reading skills and a life-long love of reading.

Finding the right book

As part of the AR program, teachers will help students find their reading level for “just right books”—the ones that aren’t too hard and not too easy. (In AR, this is also known as the “ZPD range.”) It is very important that students read books at their “just right” level, so they can make sense of their reading, which in turn helps them grow in reading skills and pass the AR tests! (An exception would be the books that parents read aloud to children. These books can be above the student’s independent reading level.)

We continue our work in the library this year of marking all the AR books with their AR reading level so “just right books” will be easy for students to locate. The “five finger rule” works well to see if a book is too difficult for your child. Have him read one page, and put up a finger every time he comes across a word that he can’t say. If

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he reaches five words before the end of the page, the book is too hard. Parents can help students select books by visiting www.arbookfind.com. Log on and check out the AR BookFinder, where you can select a book title, author or topic that interests your child, and receive a list of recommended books.

Parent help needed

Our PTA has provided generous funding in order to bring this school-wide AR program to Sherwood Forest. What an investment they have made in our children! They are in need of parent volunteers who can help by: 1) labeling AR books in the library; 2) distributing beads and rewards to classrooms; 3) reading AR tests to younger students; or 4) monitoring students in the computer lab while they take an AR test. Please contact Richelle Tribble (richelle@tribble.org) or call the school (253-945-3800) if you might be able to help, or if you would like more information.

Students have already begun taking AR quizzes at school this year. The theme continues to be STARs, short for **Sherwood’s Top Accelerated Readers!** Oh what a difference reading makes in children’s success at school! Get ready, readers! The **Accelerated Reader** program is here!

Sincerely,
Barbara Bergman, Principal