

**FEBRUARY 2016**

## **ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

178 Edwin Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6P 3Z9

Phone Number: (416) 393-5216  
Fax Number: (416) 393-5803

**Principal:**  
Elisa Arciero

**Secretary:**  
Cheryl Migliaccio

**Superintendent:**  
Dr. Jim Saraco  
(416) 222-8282 Ext. 5371

**Trustee:**  
Barbara Poplawski  
(416) 512-3410

**Parish:**  
St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Parish  
Pastor: Rev. Joseph Tap Van Tran  
163 Annette Street  
(416) 769-8163

**School Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. Entry  
10:42 a.m. Recess  
11:45 a.m. Lunch Hour  
12:45 p.m. Entry  
2:10 p.m. Recess  
3:30 p.m. Dismissal

CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)  
[www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)  
OAPCE Toronto (Provincial Voice for Parents)  
[www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto](http://www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto)

**Adult ESL:**  
Barbara Gajdamowicz  
(416) 397-6350



# **St. Rita Catholic School Newsletter**

## **Principal's Message:**

Chocolates, flowers, valentines, and red hearts, what would the month of February be without the celebration of Valentine's Day? While the rest of the world may choose to celebrate the ideal of romantic love on February 14, TCDSB schools will be focusing on the virtue of LOVE as expressed in the gospels: "*For God so loved the world, He gave His only son.*" (John 3:16) As we focus on the virtue of love at St. Rita Catholic School this month, let us remember that love not only inspires the practice of all other virtues, it is the foundation and completion of all the other virtues. We will not limit our celebration of the virtue of love to February 14th, but demonstrate this virtue through many activities that celebrate continued student improvement in learning and some great mid-winter fun such as the Mardi Gras Dance, Carnival activities for Primary students, the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School, and the Believe in Angels activities.

St. Rita will have its District Review on the morning of Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. The students enjoyed skating at Centennial Arena for the first time last month and will have another opportunity to skate there in February. We will begin our Lenten journey on February 10th this year and prepare for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

God of friendship and love, help us to always treat others with love and respect for we know that Jesus calls us to love others as we love ourselves. May He walk with us every day and guide us in our relationships. May we always appreciate the wonderful gift of our family and friends.

Respectfully,

**Ms. E. Arciero**



## **Kindergarten Registration**

Registration for Kindergarten began **January 13, 2016**. Parents are invited to complete their application via the Board's Online Registration Website: <http://soar.tcdsb.org>

The following documents are required for registration:

1. Child's Birth Certificate (Certificate of Citizenship or Landed Immigrant Status)
2. Child's Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or other proof of Catholicity)
3. Child's Immunization Record
4. Proof of residency in Toronto

General information is available by telephone at 416-222-8282, ext. 5314 or via the board's website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)



## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

**Call 416-393-5216 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 5320.**

**For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, please visit the website at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org).**

**Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year:**

**Follow @TCDSB on Twitter**

## Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC)

Movie Night on January 21<sup>st</sup> was a great success! Thank you to the parents and students who came out to watch the Minions and supported a fun family activity with their child(ren).

**Next meeting will be on Monday, February 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the staffroom. Please join us!**



## Mardi Gras Dance!

CSPC is organizing a Mardi Gras Dance this year on **February 9th**. Students are asked to bring **\$2** for this event. All students will receive beads at the dance. It is a mini fundraiser which will support fieldtrips, graduations, sacraments and other activities. Refreshments will be on sale at the dance.

## Cold and Flu Season

If your child(ren) needs to stay in for recess due to a cold or illness, we encourage you to keep them at home. There are no supervisors to watch over these students. Fresh air is healthy and unless it is just too cold, everyone from ELP to Gr. 8 will go outside for recess.



## Cold Weather

We have been very fortunate with regards to snow this year! However, it is winter and we do have cold weather. Parents are reminded to please send an extra pair of shoes for their child(ren) to wear indoors if you have not already done so. Also, please ensure students come to school properly dressed with hats, boots, gloves, snowpants, and winter coats. Get all the latest information about cancellations and closures throughout the winter months, and all year long by following @TCDSB on Twitter.

## Bussing Concerns

The school is always willing to share information that has been provided by the bus company regarding bus delays, when they arise. I would ask, however, that requests for clarification be shared directly with the bus company.

### The numbers are:

#### Attridge

(416) 255-5199

#### First Student Cardinal

(416) 444-7030

#### Stock

(416) 244-5341



## Attendance and Punctuality

Regular school attendance and punctuality are important for student progress. Children should be kept home only when they are ill. Appointments, whenever possible, should be arranged outside of school hours. Being on time for the start of class is important. The bell rings promptly at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Your child/children should be in the school yard by this time so that they can assemble with their peers and be involved in all activities from the beginning of class. All children who arrive after the class has entered the school will be marked late. If dropping off your child late, please do so at the office.

## Appropriate Dress Code

Our students' well-being will continue to be a priority for both myself and the staff as we continue to follow the TCDSB Dress Code based on the principles of respect, safety, and diversity. A reminder that the Appropriate Dress Code at St. Rita includes the use of a white or navy blue shirt/blouse and a navy blue pant/skirt, **no denim**. Students who are not following the Dress Code will bring home forms and/or you will be receiving a phone call. A formal incident report will be documented if there is a fourth incident. Parents' support of the Dress Code is much appreciated.



## Supervision Hours

We have supervision in the school yard from **8:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.** Please ensure your child is not dropped off too early in the morning or left too late afterschool as there is no one here to supervise your child.

**Students should not be dropped off between 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to sit in the front hall without school staff supervision.**

All students, including kindergarten students, should be in the school yard waiting for the morning bell and not waiting in the front entrance outside the office with a parent/guardian.

## Pizza Lunches



The pizza lunches for February will be held on **Thursday, Feb. 4 and Feb. 18 (Only Cheese Pizza during Lent).**

## Subway and Pita Pit Lunch Days



Subway Lunch Day is on **Thursday, February 25**. Pita Pit Lunch is on **Tuesday, February 16**.



## Lunch Lady

Our next Lunch Lady is on **Thursday, February 11**. Orders at school are due by **February 9<sup>th</sup>**. You may also place an order on line up until February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Skating at Campbell Rink and Centennial Arena

Skating will continue for the month of February at Campbell Park Rink and at Centennial Arena. Due to the unpredictability of the weather/temperature, the Campbell outdoor skating may be cancelled because of the amount of time students would be outdoors – walking to the rink, outdoor skate, and walking back to school. The students' safety is always the first priority.

**If you are able to volunteer for the outdoor skate, please contact your child's teacher.**

## Student of the Month

The student of the month for January is the student who demonstrated spirit and has the courage to do and say what is right. Students will be acknowledged over the PA and receive a certificate and small token. Congratulations to the following students for being the winners for January: **Sophia S, Alexander C, Jorge B, Hamish K, Samantha A, Mariana G, Aysia P, and Edwin X.**



## District Review on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

A district review is a working tool to help schools and systems capture evidence of efforts to improve student learning and achievement and school effectiveness. It is intended to assist the school sharpen its focus based on the data and the deep implementation of high-yield strategies. We welcome our Superintendent, Dr. Saraco, and a team of Principals and Vice Principals who will lead St. Rita's District Review.

## Head Lice

Please be vigilant about checking your child's hair for nits or lice. Please contact the office if you find your child does have nits or lice. **ALL REPORTED CASES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.** Your cooperation will help ensure that we don't have an infestation of head lice among the children. Treatment is necessary. For more information you can contact Toronto Public Health at (416) 392-1250.

## Junior Boys' and Girls' Indoor Soccer

Both teams competed at St. Raymond C. S. Congratulations to the boys' team for trying their best and placing 4th: **Helder C, Brandon O, Gustavo A, Tiago P, John S, John Paul L, Terry M, Davonta S, and Johnny O.** The girls' put forth a great effort and placed 4th in their division: **Ashley W, Victoria L, Carolina J, Jezel C, Faith C, Melanie C, Samantha A, and Adriana C.** A special thank you goes to Mr. J. Borg for coaching the boys' team and Ms. H. Alleyne for coaching the girls' team.

## ME to WE

The last Friday of every month will continue to be a **DRESS DOWN DAY** to raise funds for our ME TO WE initiatives. Students are asked to bring \$1.00 to participate in these days. January's Dress Down Day raised **\$58.00**. We would like to thank parents, students, and staff for their generous support and helping to teach the children about the importance of charity.



## Officer Eric and Safety Visits

Officer Eric visited our Gr. 1/ 2, ELP, Gr. 3/ 4, and Gr. 5/ 6 classes in January and reviewed safety with the students. He also talked about empathy and the importance of treating each other with respect.

## An Evening Nutrition Workshop for Parents on February 24, 2016

A Toronto Public Health Nurse will deliver a nutrition workshop designed to help you and your children make healthier choices in their diet. Workshop activities will be focused on preparing healthy lunches and snacks to give your child the energy and nutrition they need to grow and learn at school. A flyer will be sent home shortly with more details. The topics will include: Canada's Food Guide, Reading Nutrition Labels, Portion Sizes, Health Impact of Foods High in Sugar, Salt and Fat and Building a Healthy Lunch. **Please join us!**

## Guidance Corner

Mr. F. Amato

### High School Applications – What's Next?

During the week of February 8, 2016, TCDSB Secondary Schools will begin to forward acceptance packages to elementary schools. They will not all arrive on the same date, so please do not panic if your child does not come home with a package on February 8. Once you receive your acceptance package, please read the instructions very carefully and take note of any important dates and forms that need to be submitted. Most secondary schools require the classroom teacher or principal to sign the course selection sheets. Try to remember that grade 8 teachers are extremely busy and may require time to complete forms for your child. Please be respectful of this and submit your requests early, thereby giving the teachers enough notice.

### Change Your Mind?

If you no longer want your child to attend their 'first choice' school, you may request a change of school using the Change Form. This form becomes available in the **beginning of March**. Ask your child's teacher for a form at that time. Please keep in mind that requests can only be accepted based on the availability of space in the school.

### What if my child did not get into their school of choice?

Students who were redirected to an alternate school because their choice(s) were oversubscribed, can do one of three things:

1. Accept the redirection, thereby securing themselves a spot in a secondary school in September.
2. Accept the redirection but ask to be placed on a Priority 2 waiting list at their original school of choice. This student will have a spot in the redirected school in September and if a spot becomes available in his/her first choice, s/he may be offered that position.
3. Turn down the redirection and be placed on a Priority 1 waiting list at their original school of choice. If this option is chosen, then your child will not have a spot in any school for the time being. If spots do not become available in their first choice school by the start of the year, then the student will have to register at a school where spots may still be available.

## TCDSB Course Calendar

Check out the 2016-2017 Course Calendar online at:

[https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/33253\\_TCDSB\\_Course\\_Calendar\\_2016.pdf](https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Documents/33253_TCDSB_Course_Calendar_2016.pdf)



### **Immunization Winter 2016 from Toronto Public Health**

Students must be up-to-date with their immunization or have a valid exemption form to attend school in Ontario. The required immunizations protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, meningococcal and varicella (for students born on or after January 1, 2010). Important boosters are given to children in kindergarten and again during the high school years.

### **Please note that your doctor does not send the information to Toronto Public Health.**

Every time your child has an immunization, report the information to Toronto Public Health by one of the following ways:

- Online at [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health) and click on "Report your school-aged child's vaccine"
- Fax: 416-338-2487
- Mail a copy to:  
Toronto Public Health, Immunization  
235 Danforth Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M4K 1N2

For more information visit our website at [Toronto.ca/immunization](http://Toronto.ca/immunization) or call us at 416-392-1250. Interpreters are available Monday to Friday 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

### **New PA Day Added to Calendar**

The Board has approved Friday, April 15, 2016 as a system-wide Professional Activity Day.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/school/SchoolYearCalendar/Pages/Default.aspx>

### **Director's Annual Report**

Check out all the highlights from 2014-2015

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/b932c3a2-fa2f-4472-bb8b-5a46fbaf8c80>

### **Multi-Year Deficit Recovery Plan**

Virtual Town Hall scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>. Get all the details on our website [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

FOR GOD SO LOVED  
THE WORLD, HE GAVE  
IT HIS ONLY SON.

~ JOHN 3:16 ~

- LET YOUR ACTIONS BE GUIDED BY THE IDEA THAT GOD SAYS WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS HE HAS LOVED US.
- JESUS SAID WE SHOULD LOVE OUR ENEMY.
- THE BIBLE SAYS THAT LOVE IS ALWAYS PATIENT AND KIND.
- LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A WAY THAT MAKES OTHERS KNOW YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.



## Tips for Parents in Supporting Their Child in Developing Learning Skills and Work Habits at Home

During this time of new beginnings, we can take time to support our children in setting goals for themselves. This might be a good time to review the six Learning Skills and Work Habits and think about ways that we can grow in these areas.

Learning skills and work habits are study skills and thinking skills that are an integral part of your child's learning.

Developing these learning skills will help prepare your child for life-long learning as well as foster independence in learning, problem solving, decision-making and organizing. We can find the six Learning Skills and Work Habits on the first page of the report card. They include: **Responsibility, Collaboration, Initiative, Organization, Independent Work and Self-Regulation.**

### *Learning Skills/ Work Habits*

### *Parent Supports at Home*

#### **Responsibility**

- Help your child set goals
- Take a few moments every day to chat about the school day and be a good listener: "How was your day?"
- Make sure to always check and sign the agenda and monitor your child's progress and homework completion
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher
- Encourage your child to be punctual
- Establish a balance between homework and other activities

#### **Organization**

- Provide your child with a suitable environment for working at home (neat and free from distraction)
- Work out a specific time for studying and homework completion
- Provide your child with the proper tools and supplies (e.g., computer access, writing material, calculators, post-it notes etc.)
- Establish a balance between homework and other activities
- Encourage researching for information from a variety of sources (internet, books, magazines)

#### **Independent Work**

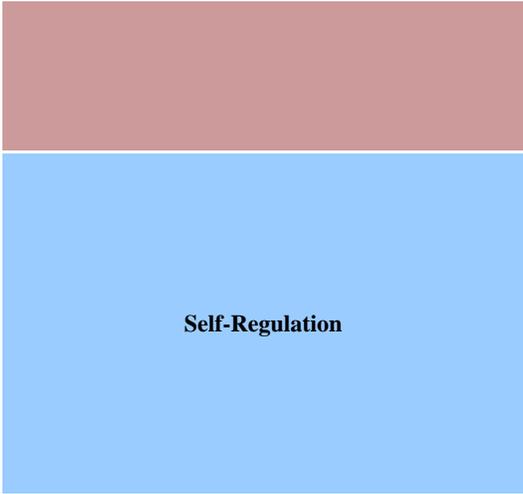
- Check in occasionally by asking questions and talking about how the work is going
- Participate appropriately in homework experiences and provide guidance as needed – encourage child to read instructions carefully and attempt different ways to solve problems
- Promote independence as much as possible
- Create a checklist of work to be completed
- Help your child refer to and or access assignment criteria or rubrics

#### **Collaboration**

- Establish a balance between homework and other activities
- activities (to be a part of a team)
- Provide opportunities for your child to practice his/her skills with others
- Help your child to build healthy peer-to-peer relationships by visiting the public library for story time, attending summer camp, plays and musical events
- Encourage your child to work with others in group settings such as clubs, organizations and teams
- Monitor on-line social networking carefully
- Encourage child to work out problems with others in a civil manner (find a compromise), on their own when possible

#### **Initiative**

- Promote risk-taking learning activities
- Encourage curiosity
- Encourage your child to start asking questions
- Turn everyday activities into homework such as searching newspapers, reading recipes, creating shopping lists, plotting out routes on a map, reading directions on how to set up a game console
- Visit places in Canada and abroad



## Self-Regulation

- Encourage child volunteer responses in class
- When failing or making mistakes, be supportive and allow children to learn from their experiences
- Help your child set goals
- Participate appropriately in homework experiences by clarifying expectations and providing guidance as needed
- Provide strategies that best suit your child's learning style
- Acknowledge your child's efforts
- Motivate your child to persevere when responding to challenges
- Encourage child to develop interests in multiple hobbies
- Encourage child to reflect on their efforts
- Connect your child's interests with possible careers in all pathways

Adapted from the FSL Homework Toolbox ([http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/homework\\_tips/learning\\_skills\\_and\\_work\\_habits.php](http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/homework_tips/learning_skills_and_work_habits.php))

Excerpt from *Skills for Life... Your Future, Your Choice* teacher resource. Amato, F., Fantinato, J., and Vincent G.

### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2015-2016

#### Wards

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino            | 9. Jo-Ann Davis           |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk             | 10. Barbara Poplawski     |
| 3. Sal Piccininni            | 11. Angela Kennedy, Chair |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni          | 12. Nancy Crawford        |
| 5. Maria Rizzo               | Karina Dubrovskaya        |
| 6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair | Allison Gacad             |
| 7. Michael Del Grande        | Student Trustees          |
| 8. Garry Tanuan              |                           |



Angela Gauthier, Director of Education

80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON Website: [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)



## Dicas para os Pais de como Apoiar os Seus Filhos no Desenvolvimento das Suas Competências de Aprendizagem e Hábitos de Trabalho em Casa

Durante este período de novos começos, podemos passar algum tempo a apoiar as nossas crianças no estabelecimento de metas para si próprias. Este pode ser o momento ideal para rever as seis Competências de Aprendizagem e Hábitos de Trabalho e pensar em meios para nos desenvolvermos nestas áreas. Competências de Aprendizagem e Hábitos de Trabalho são competências de estudo e de pensamento que são uma parte integrante da aprendizagem dos vossos filhos. O desenvolvimento destas competências de aprendizagem vão ajudar a preparar o vosso filho para uma aprendizagem ao longo da vida e a promover a sua autonomia na aprendizagem, na resolução de problemas, na tomada de decisões e nas aptidões organizacionais. As seis Competências de Aprendizagem e de Hábitos de Trabalho encontram-se na primeira página do boletim de aproveitamento. Incluem: **Responsabilidade, Colaboração, Iniciativa, Trabalho Independente e Auto-Regulação.**

### **Competências de Aprendizagem/ Hábitos de Trabalho**

### **Os Pais Apoiam em Casa**

#### **Responsabilidade**

- Ajude a criança a estabelecer metas
- Passe algum tempo diariamente para falarem sobre o dia passado na escola e seja um bom ouvinte: “Como foi o teu dia?”
- Certifique-se de verificar e assinar a agenda e de monitorizar o progresso do seu filho e de confirmar se ele fez os seus trabalhos de casa.
- Comunique regularmente com o professor do seu filho
- Motive o seu filho a ser pontual
- Estabeleça um equilíbrio entre trabalhos de casa e outras atividades

#### **Organização**

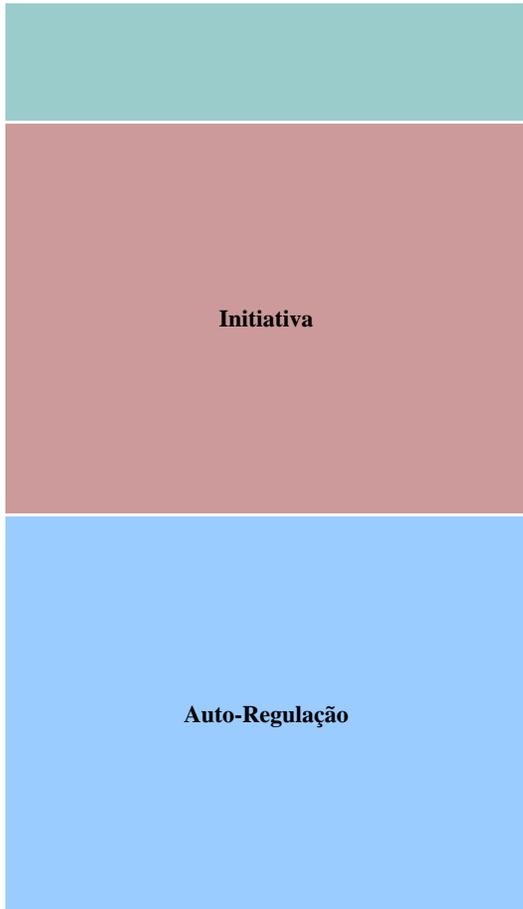
- Proporcione ao seu filho um ambiente adequado para ele trabalhar em casa (limpo e arrumado e livre de distrações)
- Estabeleça uma determinada hora para a criança estudar e fazer os seus trabalhos de casa
- Proporcione ao seu filho as ferramentas e os materiais necessários (p.ex.: acesso ao computador, material para escrever, calculadoras, bloco de *post-it*, etc.)
- Estabeleça um equilíbrio entre trabalhos de casa e outras atividades
- Incentive a pesquisa para a obtenção de informações em diferentes fontes (internet, livros, revistas)

#### **Trabalho Independente**

- De vez em quando faça-lhe perguntas e falem sobre como vai o trabalho .
- Participe nas experiências associadas aos trabalhos de casa e oriente-o quando necessário – encorage a criança a ler as instruções cuidadosamente e tentar resolver os problemas de diferentes maneiras
- Incentive-o a ser independente tanto quanto possível
- Elabore uma lista dos trabalhos que devem ser feitos
- Ajude o seu filho a consultar ou aceder a critérios e rubricas relacionadas com o trabalho

#### **Colaboração**

- Estabeleça um equilíbrio entre trabalhos de casa e outras atividades
- atividades (para ser parte de uma equipa)
- Proporcione oportunidades para que o seu filho possa praticar as suas aptidões com outras pessoas
- Ajude o seu filho a criar um relacionamento saudável com os seus colegas, visitando a biblioteca pública durante o horário de leitura de histórias, participando em acampamentos de verão, peças de teatro e eventos musicais
- Encorage o seu filho a trabalhar em grupo, por exemplo, em clubes, organizações e equipas
- Monitorize atentamente a rede social on-line



- Motive o seu filho a solucionar problemas com as outras pessoas, por eles próprios, de uma forma civilizada (chegando a um compromisso)
- Promova atividades de aprendizagem com assunção de riscos
- Estimule a curiosidade
- Incentive o seu filho a ser o primeiro a fazer perguntas
- Faça com que as atividades do dia a dia se tornem trabalhos de casa, como por exemplo, fazer pesquisas em jornais, ler receitas de culinária, elaborar listas de compras, traçar percursos em mapas, ler as instruções de como configurar a consola de um jogo
- Visitar lugares no Canadá e no estrangeiro
- Incentive o seu filho a oferecer-se para responder na classe
- Quando não for bem sucedido ou fizer erros, seja compreensiva e permita que as crianças aprendam a partir das suas próprias experiências
- Ajude o seu filho a estabelecer metas
- Participe nas experiências associadas aos trabalhos de casa, esclarecendo expectativas e orientando quando necessário
- Proporciono estratégias que melhor satisfaçam o estilo de aprendizagem do seu filho
- Reconheça os esforços do seu filho
- Motive-o a perseverar quando enfrentar desafios
- Encorage a criança a desenvolver o seu interesse em vários passatempos
- Incentive a criança a refletir sobre os seus esforços
- Conecte os interesses do seu filho com possíveis carreiras em todas as áreas

Adaptado de FSL Homework Toolbox ([http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/homework\\_tips/learning\\_skills\\_and\\_work\\_habits.php](http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/homework_tips/learning_skills_and_work_habits.php))

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