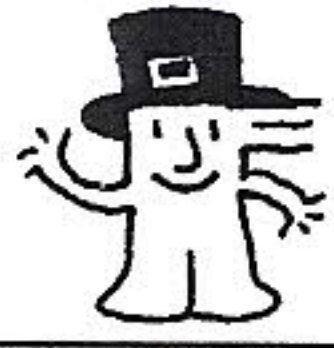


# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

November 2011

Saint John School  
Ms. Kathleen T. Aldridge, Principal



## SHORT NOTES

### Sign your name

Your youngster will sign his name thousands of times in his life. When he learns cursive, encourage him to practice by writing his signature with a variety of colorful pens (felt-tipped, ballpoint, gel). Have him sign cards and notes, or show him your signature on a receipt and let him sign his name on the back.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Water “wakes up” the brain. Staying hydrated throughout the day can help your child be alert and think clearly. Suggest that she have a glass of water before school and any time she feels thirsty. Also, remind her to drink from the water fountain during class breaks.

### Question jar

Here’s a way for your youngster to practice research skills and learn new facts. If he asks a question you can’t answer, have him write it down. *Example:* “Are orangutans monkeys?” Keep his questions in a jar. When you have time, pull one out and find the answer together. He could check a book or website or call someone who might know.

### Worth quoting

“It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.” *Eleanor Roosevelt*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** If the Pilgrims were still alive today, what would they be most famous for?

**A:** Their age!



## Forecast: Cooperation

What is the atmosphere like in your house? You can encourage your child to cooperate by creating a pleasant environment in which everyone works as a team and enjoys each other’s company. Try these ideas.

### Warm reunions

The first few minutes you and your youngster spend together after school or work can increase your chances for a nice evening. Try joining her while she eats her snack, or color pictures together. The attention from you and the relaxed tone may make her feel more cooperative as she does homework and chores and gets ready for bed.

### Nice consequences

Show your youngster that cooperating leaves more time for activities she enjoys. For example, point out that if she helps you with the laundry, you’ll have time for a game or an extra bedtime story. Or tell her that if she entertains her little brother while you pay bills, you’ll finish faster

and will be able to watch her play outdoors.

### Gentle requests

Stay upbeat and seek her input—your child may be more likely to cooperate. Say you find toys covering the living room floor. You can ask, “What’s your plan for tackling cleanup?” Or if you want her to start making her own lunch, you might say, “Where should we keep supplies so you can pack your lunch easily?” ♥



## Homework routines that work

Starting a homework routine now can help your youngster develop good habits that will benefit him throughout school. Consider these suggestions.

● **Make a homework chart.** Have your child draw a grid on a sheet of paper with the days down the left side and school subjects across the top. Each day, he can “x” out where he doesn’t have homework. Then, as he finishes an assignment, he can initial the correct box. He’ll have a nice visual reminder of what he has accomplished and what he still needs to do.

● **Review assignments together.** This will give you a chance to see what your youngster is working on and to make sure he finishes his work. *Tip:* You can point out mistakes, but have him correct them on his own so his teacher will be able to see if he needs extra help. ♥



