



# SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019 • VOLUME 38

## JUNE

### FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO KEEP LEARNING ALIVE AND WRAPPING UP THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS

The weather in Ontario is finally sunny and all of us involved in education are looking forward to a great summer break.

This month we feature some Summer Math Activities for elementary aged children to keep the learning going all summer long. In addition, to these activities, summer is a great time to do some extra reading. Away from required reading in class, summer is a great time for

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picture, story and comic books. Summer reading can be fun for both our kids and us as parents.

In addition, this month we have included some tips for school councils in wrapping up the school year, preparing the end of year report and recognizing the work of your volunteers. We have also included an article on how school councils can use facebook to their advantage during the summer months to keep their parent community connected to the role of the council and the school.

Parents Engaged in Education have had a very successful 2018-19 school year and would like

to thank all the parents who have attended our events, downloaded resources from our website, sent questions and shared your stories. The work that parent volunteers do in school is invaluable and helps students have the best educational experience possible, THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND ENJOY A GREAT SUMMER BREAK!

*Theresa Pastore*

Executive Director,  
Parents Engaged in Education

# PARENT COUNCILS – USING FACEBOOK DURING SUMMER BREAK

If your parent council is currently using Facebook to connect to your school community don't take a break once school is out for summer. Instead, take advantage of the summer break and use it to support your continued work on building Facebook connections with parents from your school community.

Here are some social media tips to use during this summer break:

## POSTING FREQUENCY AND WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO POST?

Aim to post at the very least 2 to 3 times a week. If you get a good response from your school community via a lot of likes and/or shares you may want to increase the posting frequency for the week. As far as when to post each day and what days during the week, you may want to experiment with posting either later in the evening or mid morning. The same would go with what days to post. You may consider using Facebook insights to gain a better understanding of when your community is engaging with your posts. For advanced users, you may consider using [Buffer](#) to post your social media messages on Facebook. Over time Buffer will suggest the most optimal times of the day to be posting at.

## HOW TO POST?

Mix up your posts throughout the week. Remember it is summer break so keep it light. Create a file for saving post ideas you have found. You can use this file as a reference throughout the summer.

## WHAT TO POST?

The key is to be helpful and engaging. This is the perfect time to break from the norm. Post items and resources that parents would find helpful over the summer break. Take advantage and showcase to your community that your group is a great resource to them. You can use this [guide](#) to help with your social media creation and posting.

## SUGGESTED POSTS:

### ACTIVITIES

Parents are usually scratching their heads asking what can I do with my kids next and keep them productive and entertained during the summer. Try posting at least once a week about fun activities. Best source I always suggest for finding a treasure trove of activities is on Pinterest. Try to do a search



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with keywords like “summer activities for kids” or “summer arts and crafts for kids”. When you see a pin you like, click on it to make sure the pin takes you to a legitimate website. Most websites will have a share button, make sure to share that page to Facebook as it should make things easier and will more than likely let you share an image along with the link.

## TRAVEL/STAYCATION TIPS

Once again Pinterest will come in handy here. Try using the following searches: “traveling with kids” or “road trip with kids”. Another great resource is Google. Do a Google search for “travel tips for kids”, “Summer road trip ideas” or “staycation ideas”. You will find a ton of resources that feature ideas and hacks to make family vacations and staycations easier. Make sure to include these tips on your Facebook page throughout the summer.

## RECIPES

Summer is a great time to share summer treats that parents can make with their kids. Who doesn't want to make a cool treat like homemade ice cream or a fun treat like Hot Dog Cups. Check out the many recipes from [Buzzfeed Tasty videos](#).

## ENGAGING POSTS/SUMMER FEEDBACK

Ask your school community how their summer is going so far. Engage your community and ask questions such as what summer books are being read or favourite vacation spots so far. Ask your school community to share photos as well. Try this at least once a week. I would suggest posting on a Monday and ask your community how their previous week has gone. Remember to add positive comments when parents share. Don't forget to share photos of

your own (If you don't have your own photos trying sharing photos of recent town events).

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Parents may get local news online and from newspapers, but it is always helpful to post about upcoming events for children. Include links, dates and times. Your best resources may include: local newspapers, your local city website and your local city tourism website.

## SCHOOL NEWS

When news becomes available, post it! Your school community maybe awaiting the upcoming school year calendar with a list of P.A. days as well Christmas and March break dates. Even though your school will publish it, it never hurts to get it on your page as well. Make sure to check in with the principal to see if any important news will be coming this summer. Also check with the principal if there will be any changes to arrival or dismissal procedures and/or changes to bus routes.

## PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

As you get closer to the end of summer break, you may start to have parent council news to share with your school community. You may already have dates for upcoming school events and school lunches. Remember to post them! If your group has other news make sure to let your school community know.

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES AND HUMOUR:

Everyone loves a good chuckle or a great quote. Try posting a Monday motivational quote or a Funny Friday image. Try collecting fun and inspiring posts when you see them and save them to share at a later date (Add it to the file we suggested creating).

**Take advantage and showcase to your community  
that your group is a great resource to them.**



I

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# SCHOOL COUNCILS – WRAPPING UP THE YEAR

The end of the school year can be one of the busiest times for the members of school councils with year-end community events, graduations and succession planning for next year's council.

It is an excellent time to recruit new parents for next year when the community can see the results of the hard work of the council. Whether you have worked to raise funds to improve the educational experience of students at the school, hosted a parent learning/engagement event or planned a fun fair/BBQ for the community – you have made a difference for all students. Sometimes, it is the silent work that is done by the council through partnering and supporting the school administrators that is the most important work that a council does in a year. Be sure to communicate this work to parents as well. Unless they attend meetings regularly they are likely unaware of this important responsibility of school council members.

Take some time to go over the plan you made at the beginning of the year to revisit your goals and determine those which were accomplished and those that require further work next year. If your council did not create a specific plan for the year it is still a great time to look at all that was done and perhaps make some notes on what still can be done. It is the start of planning for the next school year.

Regulation 612 requires every school council to provide an annual report of its activities along with a financial statement.

This report can be the most valuable tool in engaging new parents to run for election for a position on the school council in the next school year. It is an opportunity for members to be proud of all the work that they have done. It is also an opportunity to outline the goals of the council which could be accomplished next year with the increased participation of parents on the council.

Consider areas where a parent with a special skill or talent could have contributed to a project or provided valuable input to a council discussion. Point out these areas in your annual report. Perhaps a parent with these skills will read the annual report and consider taking part in the council in the upcoming school year.

The report may identify a challenge with communicating with parents to let them know about matters the council will discuss at upcoming meetings or events that will assist parents in engaging with their children to increase their academic achievement. A suggestion that parents provide the council with permission to email them directly will lay the groundwork for requesting this information in the new school year. Parents need to know the reason behind a request and giving them information about why the lack of contact information creates a challenge for the council may make more parents more comfortable with the request.

# MATH SUMMER ACTIVITIES

by *Mathletics* - [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com)

## BEDTIME, A TIME FOR MATH

Do you have a bedtime routine in your home during the summer? Get creative by incorporating math into an existing bedtime routine or as a way of creating one!

### TIMING THE ROUTINE

1. Determine the steps expected for your routine (Examples may include: Pajamas, brushing teeth, shower, etc.)
2. Start the timer when steps begin
3. Your child can stop the timer when all the steps are completed
4. Keep track of the minutes it takes and make a graph of the results each week or month

**EXTENSION: USE THE CLOCK INSTEAD OF A TIMER. HAVE YOUR CHILD DETERMINE ELAPSED TIME. PRACTICE PASSING TIME WITH THIS MATHLETICS PRINTABLE ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

### MATH BEDTIME STORY

No matter where your child is on their math journey, you can find a children's book to go along with the theme.

Here are a few of our favorite math themed bedtime stories:

- Mission Addition- Loreen Leedy
- Fraction Action- Loreen Leedy
- Game Time- Stuart Murphy
- The Grapes of Math- Greg Tang

### MATH JAR

This a great one for any age and level!

When your child is doing their homework and they have trouble with a question in math, write it down on a small piece of paper and put it in a jar. You can also choose questions that were marked wrong on recent assignments, tests, etc.

Each night, have them pick out one question from the jar and complete it. This is a great way to spiral back to previous skills and practice difficult problems multiple times.

**NOW IT'S TIME TO COUNT SHEEP AND REST UP FOR ANOTHER DAY FULL OF LEARNING TOMORROW!**

# PASSING TIME

Draw hands to set the first clock to a start time where both hands are in the blue part of the clock.

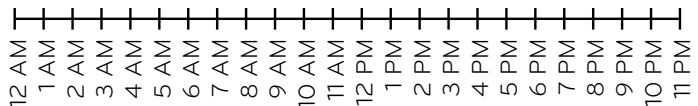
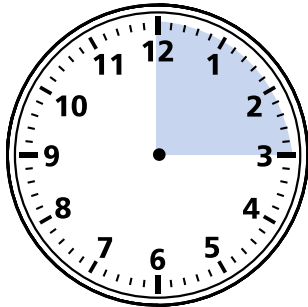
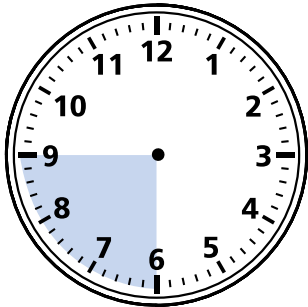
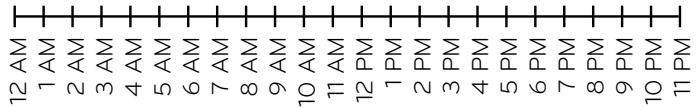
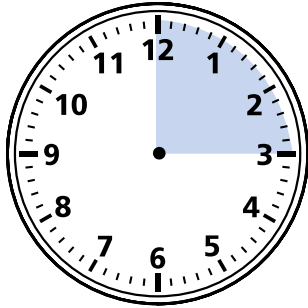
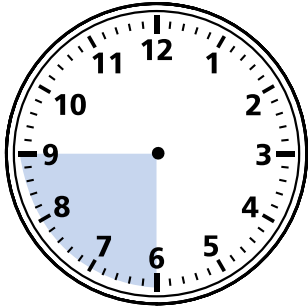
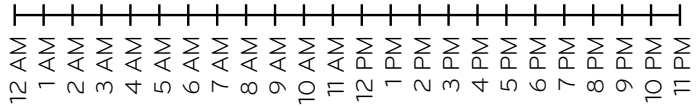
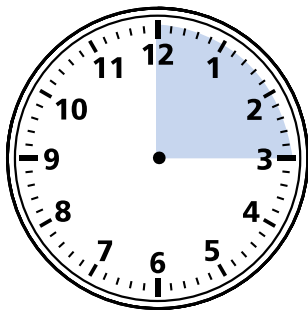
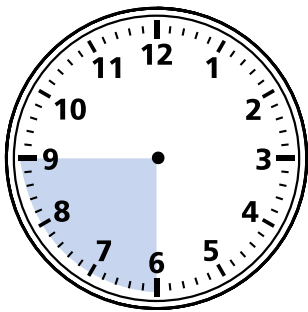
Draw hands to set the second clock to an end time where both hands are in the blue part of the clock.

Tell how much time has passed to go from the first time to the second time.

Try again with at least two different times.

START

END



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# WAYS TO INCORPORATE MATH DURING SPORTS

Whether your children play on a team, individually or just enjoy watching sports, it's easy to incorporate a few quick activities to keep up with math practice.

## HOW LONG WAS PRACTICE?

1. Write down the time when you and/or your child are getting out of the car for practice or a game.
2. When you return to the car, write down the time.
3. Have your learner determine the amount of time that has elapsed in hours and minutes.

## HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK DO YOU SPEND PLAYING SPORTS?

1. Add up the total amount of minutes spent playing sport each week. Include practice, games, etc.

Try to make sure your child only counts actual playing time. i.e. subtract breaks and time between periods or halves.

2. Convert minutes to hours and minutes.

**EXTENSION: DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE ENTIRE TEAM SPENDS PLAYING SPORTS BY MULTIPLYING BY THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS.**

## STATISTICS

Have your child create a graph to represent stats from their summer of sports. This can be a graph showing the number of points scored throughout the summer, speed, saves, shots on goal etc. **Choose a type of graph to represent the data:**

- Picture Graphs OR Column/Bar Graphs

# MATH AT THE SUPERMARKET

A trip to the supermarket or grocery store is usually a weekly and sometimes even daily event. Bring your child along and keep them occupied with fun tasks that not only allow them to be involved with shopping for your family but also incorporate math skills.

## COST OF MEALS

1. If you're planning a meal or even multiple meals, plan out the menu with your child before going to the store.
2. Make a list of items you will need and the quantity of each item.
3. As you are collecting the items at the grocery store, have your child write down the cost of each item. For produce, make sure to weigh the items and have them determine the price before going to the cashier. Note: Weighing items and determining total cost can be an ongoing activity throughout the supermarket for loose items that are priced by weight.

4. Once you have returned home, your child can calculate the total cost of the meal and the cost per person in your family.

## DAILY, WEEKLY AND MONTHLY AMOUNTS OF CUSTOMERS

1. Ask the manager of a local store the average number of customers that come to the store each day. You can ask the manager together, or have your child ask independently if they are comfortable with doing so.
2. Using the answer, have your child estimate the number of customers per week, month and even year.

## BEST VALUE BUYS

1. Using an item from your shopping list, find two brands of the same item in different sizes.
2. Record the weight and price for each item.
3. Calculate which one is the better buy based on price per unit.

## ROUNDING RECEIPTS

1. Save all receipts from your shopping trip
2. Have your child round each item price to the nearest \$0.10, \$0.50 and/or \$1.00.
3. Calculate the total using each method. Compare.

## SHOPPING CARTS AND BASKETS

Use the shopping carts and baskets for a few activities.

1. What are the dimensions?

2. What is the capacity? How many cereal boxes can fit inside? (make sure to put all the boxes back!)

## HOW MANY ITEMS ON THE SHELF?

1. Choose a section of the shelf that is organized well. Spices, canned foods and cereal boxes work well.
2. Have your child estimate the amount of the item on that section of the shelf.
3. Count the exact amount and compare it to the estimation.

# MATH AT THE POOL

Going to a pool, swimming in one in your backyard or even taking a trip to the beach are great summer activities. With math all around us, a day near the water can be a great opportunity to develop and practice math skills. These activities can also be completed out of the water, in a park, or anywhere. Just simply change the activity from diving underwater to running a distance outside.

## DIVING FOR MATH FACTS

1. Use a diving stick and put it at the bottom of the pool.
2. Say a math fact (Use addition, subtraction, multiplication or division based on your child's level).
3. Once they know the answer, they can dive to retrieve the stick and come back to the surface to yell out the answer.
4. Make it a competition that involves a few kids. Add up their scores and determine a winner!

## HOW DEEP IS THE WATER?

Have your child convert meters to centimeters or feet to inches for the shallow and deep ends of the pool. For an extension, have your child determine how many

centimeters/inches they are above the water in the shallow end when standing on the bottom AND how many centimeters/inches they would be below the water if they were standing on the bottom of the deep end.

## MATH JACKPOT

1. Use a rubber ball, foam ball or beach ball. You should have at least 3 people to play.
2. To play, have one person stand with their back to the rest of the pool. This will be the person throwing the balling behind them and yelling out point values.
3. Before each throw behind them, the person should yell out how many points the throw is worth E.g. 200 pts, 25 pts, 70 pts, etc.
4. Whoever catches the ball receives that amount of points.
5. As the game goes on, they will need to add up their points for every ball they catch.
6. First one to 500 wins!

**MAKE IT HARDER BY CHOOSING LARGER OR MORE DIFFICULT NUMBERS TO ADD. THROW A CURVE BALL AND ADD IN SOME NEGATIVES – THE PERSON WHO CATCHES IT WILL WANT TO THROW IT BACK!**

## ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO

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Parents Engaged in Education

## ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO

### See you over the summer!

Come join us at these events to see how the Ontario College of Teachers supports the growth, development and well-being of Ontario students.

- June 1: Parents partenaires en education Annual Conference, Toronto
- June 22-23: Pride Toronto
- July 13-14: Belleville Waterfront and Ethnic Festival
- August 18: Burlington Children's Festival



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