

# Taylor School

# HANDBOOK

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*"Children First"*

A decorative graphic for a mission statement. It features a central oval containing the text "Mission Statement". This oval is part of a larger, ornate frame with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns. The frame is rectangular with rounded corners and a double-line border. The text "Mission Statement" is centered within the oval at the top of the frame.

Mission  
Statement

Together, we believe in ourselves,  
respect each other  
and work towards excellence.

TAYLOR SCHOOL  
Box 1269  
Swan River, MB ROL 1Z0  
734-4593 (phone)  
734-3112 (fax)  
[www.svsd.ca/taylor/](http://www.svsd.ca/taylor/)  
Email - [kkopecky@svsd.ca](mailto:kkopecky@svsd.ca)

Dear Parents & Students:

The school year seems to go so quickly! Here we are starting another exciting year at Taylor School. We would like to welcome all returning students and extend a special welcome to those new to our school.

We hope this Handbook will provide you with a lot of useful information on what our school is about.

We believe that parents are the most important people in a child's life. In addition, we believe that the love of parents and the caring of teachers is fundamental to a child's success. You, as a parent, have special power to make positive changes in your child's life. We, as a school community, need to work together closely in order to make this school year a success for your child/ren. We look forward to having you actively involved in the school, be it as a volunteer, Parent Advisory Council member or working with your child at home. We hope to see you at the school during the year!

If you have any suggestions, concerns or just want to check something out please contact the school to let us know. We always welcome new ideas.

We look forward to working with you in order to work towards our goal which is: ***"to provide your child with the best education possible in a positive and caring environment!"***

Sincerely

Kevin Kopecky  
Principal



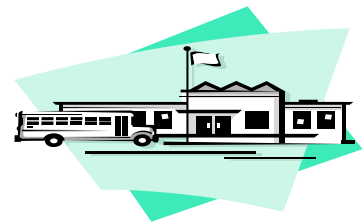
## STAFF

Ashcroft, Val-----Educational Assistant  
Barnett, John-----Custodian  
Betcher, Joanne-----Grade 1A Teacher  
Betcher, Wendy-----Educational Assistant  
Biech, Dorothy-----Custodial Assistant  
Buhler, Diane-----Educational Assistant  
Clelland, Crystal-----Kindergarten A Teacher  
Dale, Jane-----Kindergarten B Teacher  
Fedorchuk, Jeannie-----Educational Assistant  
Fothergill, Charlene (on leave) -----Grade 4A Teacher  
Gnida, Danya-----Basic French Teacher (.50)  
Gorski, Cindy-----Educational Assistant  
Holland, Cathy-----Grade 2A Teacher  
Honke, Virginia-----Educational Assistant  
Immerkar, Evelyn-----Early Literacy Intervention (.50)  
Kopecky, Kevin-----Principal  
Maksymchuk, Tracy-----Grade 3A Teacher  
Martin, Janet-----Grade 4B Teacher  
McDonald, Rob-----Grade 2B Teacher  
McKibben, Darlene (on leave)-----Music Teacher  
McMillan, Delmarie-----Grade 5B Teacher  
Morden, Nancy-----Grade 1B Teacher  
Mosiondz, Judy-----Resource Teacher  
Nicolle, Patricia-----Music Teacher  
Perchuk, Jodi-----Librarian  
Reid-Thorpe, Kate-----Educational Assistant  
Smith, Trudy-----Grade 4A Teacher  
Stankewich, Lorna-----Secretary  
Stock, Robert-----Grade 5A Teacher  
Terry, Cindy-----Educational Assistant  
Vestby, Frances-----Grade 3B Teacher  
Yakielashek, Nancy-----Educational Assistant

## DAILY TIME SCHEDULE

8:55 - 9:00 am	Students enter the school and register for the morning.
9:00 - 9:50 am	Block 1 (Opening Exercises & Announcements at 9:00 a.m.)
9:50 - 10:45 am	Block 2
10:45 - 11:00 am	RECESS
11:00 - 11:50 am	Block 3
11:50 am	Students are dismissed for lunch.
11:50 am-12:15 pm	Students go home for lunch or eat in their classrooms.
12:15-12:45 pm	Outdoor play time (weather permitting).
12:45 - 12:55 pm	Students enter school and register for the afternoon.
12:55 - 1:45 pm	Block 4
1:45 - 2:35 pm	Block 5
2:35 - 2:50 pm	RECESS
2:50 - 3:40 pm	Block 6
3:40 pm	Students are dismissed to go home.

*Patrols are dismissed for duty at 3:35 p.m.*



## DOORS TO USE



Kindergarten & Grade 1's - north (east)  
Grade 2's & Grade 3B - south (east)  
Grade 4B & Grade 3A - north (center)  
Grade 4A & Grade 5's - south (main)

All doors (except main front entrance) will be locked after Opening Exercises in the morning. All visitors and students are asked to please report to the Office if arriving after doors are locked.

## OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## SCHOOL CYCLE

Our school operates on a six-day cycle.

Monthly calendars will have school days and special events marked on them. Our website also will have a calendar with event dates. Please check it out at [www.svsd.ca/taylor/](http://www.svsd.ca/taylor/).

## **INFORMATION NIGHT**

Each September the staff holds an Information Night for all parents. This allows parents to learn more about the staff, programs and any new initiatives planned for the year -- as well as allowing parents to inquire about the operation of the school.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

In order for our school to carry out the many "extra" activities that make for an effective school, we rely on an energetic group of volunteers. We feel fortunate to have had an excellent support group which has aided us with both regular help as well as special occasions.

We hope you will seriously consider helping us by filling in a "Volunteer Form". These forms will be sent home in one of the first school newsletters.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

The school is served by the Swan Valley Health Unit. It provides us with preventative services, resources and members to speak to groups of students.

All children must be immunized for measles before they can attend school.

We carry out school-wide head checks for pediculosis (head lice) on occasions when outbreaks take place. These are done by trained staff members and volunteers with a Public Health Nurse (if available) in attendance. A memo will go home at least a day before the check takes place. Parents will be informed of suspected cases and students must be treated before they return to school.

## **ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN**

Any child whose fifth birthday falls on or before December 31st is eligible to enter Kindergarten in September of the same year.

Registrations take place at Taylor School beginning March 1st. Phone the school for specific information.

*(New students transferring during the school year must register at the School Office at the time of transfer.)*

## ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL

Illnesses or injuries will be reported to the Office when they are detected. Parents will be contacted if necessary.

Our school does not have space for a medical room, however, students will be made as comfortable as possible if the need arises.

The principal or secretary can provide students with Tylenol or Advil upon the written or verbal consent of the parent. A small supply is kept in the Office.

***Arrangements for administering any prescribed medication in school must be made with the principal. Students should not keep any medication in their possession during the day. Parents are required (School Board policy) to fill out a medication form, signed by a physician, should their child/ren require medication at school.***



Staff will attend to accidents while parents are being contacted. Where medical attention is required, parents will be expected to pick up their child. In cases where parents can't be reached, the child will be taken to the hospital or an ambulance will be called. A staff person will remain with the child until the parent/guardian arrives. ***(We may also try to contact your designated "Emergency Contact Person" as listed on the annual registration form.)***

## RESOURCE HELP

We have a resource teacher on staff whose major function is to provide specific help for students identified as experiencing difficulties. The resource teacher is to assist classroom teachers in developing techniques and programs for these children. The help may come in the form of testing to isolate areas of concern, providing assistant time, helping to develop special programming or offering direct service to individual students.

The resource teacher will also be involved in planning special programs such as programs for gifted children.

New students to our school are monitored by the resource teacher in order to make their transition as smooth as possible.

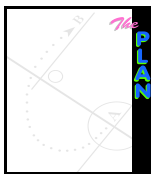
Educational assistants are also organized through this program.

## OTHER HELP

We have other professionals who visit our school. They are:

- Coordinator of Student Services - Deborah Burnside
- Speech/Language Clinician - Louise Oberton
- Psychologist - Sheena Blanchard
- Technology Worker - Courtney Densen
- Social Worker - Julie Baskier

Check with the principal or resource teacher for further information.



## SCHOOL PLAN

Each school in Manitoba must develop a detailed school plan for each school year. The plan is presented to the School Board in late fall. It is a public document and, therefore, you are welcome to ask to see it.

## ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

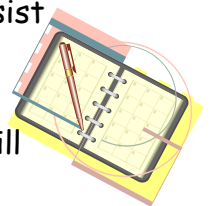
We are committed to remain current in our strategies to make assessment current for instruction and evaluation most meaningful for the child and parent.

## STUDENT AGENDAS

Student agendas will be used by all Kindergarten to Grades 5 students. Parents have overwhelmingly requested we continue using agendas.

The agendas help students to develop stronger organizational skills, assist them in developing goals and provide for regular home/school communication. To ensure success, parents will be expected to check and sign agendas daily.

The agendas are purchased from the school at a cost of \$5.00. This will take place upon registration during the first few days of school.



## HOMEWORK

Under normal circumstances, students in K-3 will not be given homework unless arranged by teacher and parent. Parents will be expected to be involved with home reading/writing programs. These make up a very special part of the program - particularly the Guided Reading program.

Students in Grades 4 and 5 are expected to complete unfinished work, study for tests and work on some remedial assignments outside of school. Homework is not given as a punishment to a child.

Parents are encouraged to make regular time available to children at home to complete unfinished tasks.

Should students not have regular homework, parents are encouraged to use the designated period of scheduled time to read with their child/ren.

## ATTENDANCE

One of the major factors contributing to a child's success in school is regular attendance. A daily record of each child's attendance is kept in the Office.

**Should your child have to be absent, please inform the school in advance or call the Office first thing in the morning or afternoon.**

To ensure each child's safety, we will attempt to contact parents when an absence is reported to the Office without some arrangement made by the parent.

If your child is involved in regularly scheduled activities (such as music lessons) that take place during the school day, please make arrangements with the classroom teacher.

To encourage students to attend regularly, our policy states children will be recognized on three occasions during the year for perfect and excellent attendance. This will be done in December, March and June. Perfect attendance is NO days missed during the term. Excellent attendance is no more than one missed day and no more than one inexcusable late during the term.

Students are considered absent for the morning when they arrive after or leave before 10:45 a.m. Students are considered absent for the afternoon when they arrive after or leave before 2:35 p.m.

## LATES

It is important for your child to be on time for all classes. Teachers report to the Office any absentees first thing in the morning and afternoon.

**Excusable Late** - If a parent calls the Office or sends a note explaining the reason for lateness (dr. appmt., etc.).

**Inexcusable Late** - If a student arrives late without a parent phone call or note being sent.

**All students arriving late at school must report to the Office before going to class. A late slip will be issued to the student and must be presented to the classroom teacher before they are permitted into class.** This procedure is necessary so that we can account for all the students present.

### EARLY DISMISSAL

Three Early Dismissals will take place in our Division this year. Classes will be dismissed at 1:40 p.m. on those days. Check the school calendar for dates. The three Early Dismissals will be used for professional development by the staff. These will take the place of one in-service day during the year.

### SCHOOL CANCELLATION

The Division has developed a policy regarding school closures due to bad weather or other emergency situations.

Students will no longer be bussed home before the end of the regular school day. We have a plan in place whereby parents or emergency contact persons will be contacted for in-town billeting and/or pickup. Specific information will be sent home or can be picked up in the school office.

**It is imperative that ALL parents provide us with an emergency contact person on the annual registration form.**

### EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON

On the annual registration form you will be requested to name a contact person in the event of illness or an emergency and parents cannot be reached. **It is very important that each child has such a person listed.**



### FIRE DRILLS

We are, by Department of Education regulations, required to carry out ten fire drills during a school year. These may be held at any time, however, weather conditions will be taken into consideration.



Bus transportation is provided for out-of-town students. The first bus leaves at approximately 3:45 p.m. Students should move to the bus lines as quickly as possible after dismissal.

There is inter-school bussing where routes already exist. Students may board a bus at the S.V.R.S.S. and E.S.R.S.S. and get dropped off at Taylor School. Conduct in bus lines and on buses:

- Students will line up in an orderly fashion in the line designated to them.
- In the event of rain or other severe weather conditions, students will wait indoors in their bus lines.
- Inappropriate language or inappropriate behavior may result in a student losing bus privileges. Parents would be contacted first.
- Directions given by the bus supervisor must be followed by all the students.
- Bus drivers must report any inappropriate behavior to the principal who will discuss the problem with the child(ren) involved. Parents will be informed of the child's behavior.

Bus students will not be detained after school unless prior approval has been given by parents.

There will be in-town bussing available for students living north of Ross Street. The pickup locations are Parkview Drive + Parkway Drive, Parkview Drive + Parkdale Drive. The buses will be at those locations between 8:45 and 8:55 A.M.

Bus drivers have been inserviced in a specific "Ridership" plan. For further information, please contact the Bus Garage (734-3415).

## TELEPHONE

There is access to a phone, with teacher permission, in each classroom. Students are discouraged from using it **except for emergencies**. Please assist us in ensuring students use the phone only for this purpose. (*Arranging for overnight visits, after school play, etc. are not emergencies!*)

When parents need to contact their child, they should do so as close to recess or dismissal as possible. Classes will not be interrupted for phone calls unless it is an emergency. The Office staff will ensure messages get to the students.



## **DISCIPLINE**

The S.V.S.D. is continuously reviewing its "Code of Conduct" policy. (*See Pages 14 & 15 for the present policy.*)

The following is the general statement adopted by our Division, followed by our present guidelines.

### ***Code of Conduct***

Positive personal interactions between the teacher and the student are a major factor in achieving the goal of ensuring a safe and productive environment for learning in Taylor School.

We will provide a learning environment that is orderly, supportive and safe. Such an environment can only exist through the collaborative efforts of all partners (students, parents, staff, administration and trustees).

We will establish our own Code of Conduct using the Division's policy as our guideline. Each student/parent will receive a copy of the present policy then a copy of the revised one as soon as it is completed.

### ***Present Guidelines***

Our philosophy regarding student discipline is based on the development of responsible behavior. Students are expected to respect the rights of others. When children develop and exhibit good school citizenship qualities, they will transfer these to their social interactions outside of the school.

Our primary goal is to provide a safe and positive environment for all children. The staff is committed to this goal and each student is expected to contribute towards this end as well. We expect each individual associated with our school to assist in making Taylor School a good place to learn.

Classroom teachers are responsible to set up rules and consequences/rewards for their own classroom. These should always reflect the philosophy that each child has the right to maintain her/his self-esteem and the right to a sound education.

When the classroom teacher feels her/his procedures are not meeting the needs of a child, the teacher will take the student to the Office. The principal takes charge of discipline when a student is brought to the office.

The students will also be made aware of, and reminded of, general rules outside the classroom. Students who choose to disregard these will be given a "time-out" -- sent to a designated area for the remainder of the recess (or time assigned by the supervisor).

Students who willfully disregard rules that are set to protect other students may be given a suspension -- in or out of school (depending on the frequency or severity of the infraction).

Parents will be informed as soon as possible if a problem seems to be developing.

Teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcements to reward students for good behavior.

A copy of our discipline policy (with the present revisions) is available upon request. New students moving into the school will receive a copy of the policy.





## VISITORS

Visitors are welcome! **It is important everyone report to the Office before going to any other area of the school.** Please use the main front entrance

## TAYLOR SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Taylor School is fortunate to have an active and supportive Parent Advisory Council. The Council officially formed a provincially recognized Parent Advisory Council in the fall of 1996. Annual elections are held before the end of October.

The major purposes of the Council are to support and make improvements in our school and in parent-teacher communication. Meetings are held at the school the first Tuesday evening of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Check the school calendar for exact dates.)

The Council is an active group and is anxious to have YOU involved.

## MILK PROGRAM

The Parent Advisory Council, along with the Taylor School staff, have successfully implemented a school milk program. Order forms are sent home near the end of the month for the next month. The selection is made from 2% white or chocolate milk.

The program begins in October of each school year.



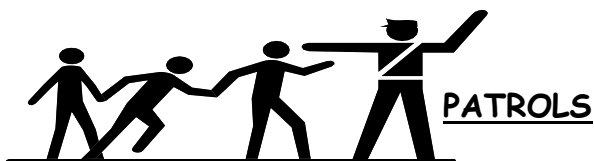
## PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK



The pedestrian crosswalk at 2nd and 9th assists in making that busy corner a safer place. In order to make the area safer, cars should not be parked along the street for pick-up. Parents are encouraged to pick up their children from the Centennial Arena parking lot.

For your child's safety, remember.....

**NO pick-ups or drop-offs should take place inside the parking lot or bus zone!**



Patrollers are student volunteers from Gr. 5 supervised by Mr. Kopecky.

We attempt to have patrols in place at crosswalks in the immediate vicinity of the school. They will be assigned to be at their stations:

8:45-9:00 am and 3:40-3:55 pm.

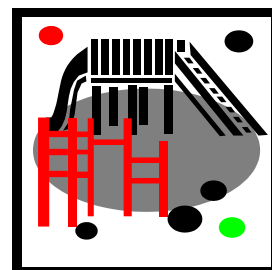
They are there to assist younger children in crossing safely. They are not traffic officers and are therefore not expected to direct traffic in any way.

Preference for patrolling will be given to students who are able to be at stations before and after school.

### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Thanks to the hard work of the Parent Advisory Council and the Swan Valley School Division, we enjoy asphalted basketball courts, soccer posts, an outdoor drinking fountain and a wonderful addition to our play structure.

Students of all ages will be using the structures during parts of the day. Presently, areas of the playground are designated to each grade. Only K-Gr. 3 are permitted on the playground equipment during the morning and afternoon recesses.



***Students are expected to stay on the school grounds at all times unless they go home for lunch, parents pick them up or arrangements (phone or letter) are made, prior to the child's leaving.***

### BICYCLES

Parents are asked to make sure their children are fully aware of bicycle safety rules and are mature enough to take their bicycles to school. We also recommend that students wear helmets when riding their bicycles.

The school cannot assume responsibility for damage to or loss of bicycles. There is space for all bicycles to stand up in the racks. Students should provide adequate locks.

Students will walk their bikes on the school grounds and up to the first patrol station and across all crosswalks whether patrolled or unpatrolled.

Bicycle safety is reviewed with the students in fall and spring. This includes the proper entering and exiting of the schoolgrounds.



## SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS....



These are considered as modes of transportation similar to bicycles. The same guidelines apply -- students will wear protective gear and, upon arrival at school, they will store them until dismissal. These may need to be limited because of inadequate storage space at school.



## VALUABLES

Students are cautioned to leave valuables (iPods, Nintendo DS, PSP, cell phones, etc.) at home. We cannot take responsibility for valuables that are not directly related to schoolwork.

## INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

A committee of teachers looks after an intramural sports program during noon hours.

This includes activities such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey and badminton.

# RECESS

Children are expected to go outdoors at recess.

Students will remain indoors during days of inclement weather. Recess will take place in each student's room on these occasions.

Should a student be recovering from an injury or illness and need to stay indoors temporarily, parents are requested to send a note to the classroom teacher. If possible, the note should state the duration the parent expects the child to be kept indoors. (*Students will be excluded from Phys. Ed. Classes during their illness.*)

## CLOTHING

School is a place for learning so clothing worn should be suitable to the environment, taking into account safety and weather conditions.

Each student will have outdoor and indoor shoes. **Shoes will be worn at all times.**

Clothing advertising inappropriate products such as alcoholic beverages, etc. should not be worn at school. Slogans and style of clothing should also be in good taste. Clothing which is too revealing is considered inappropriate and should not be worn at school.

## SUPERVISION

Teachers have been assigned supervision including bus, morning and afternoon recess duties.

Indoor supervision in the morning begins at 8:55 a.m. and 11:50 at lunch.

Noon hour supervision is carried out by teacher assistants (or other responsible adults) who are trained to carry out the responsibilities. There will be at least one teacher on call and on the premises who will be available for emergency situations that may arise.

Students will be expected to show the same respect and courtesy towards the supervisor/s as they would towards a teacher.

## LUNCH STUDENTS

Non-bus students are encouraged to eat lunch at home. Parents of children living close to the school should make arrangements when their child(ren) need to stay at school for lunch.

Students will eat in their classrooms between 11:50 and 12:10. Each student, along with monitors, will be expected to help keep lunchrooms clean and tidy.

Students will follow the rules for making lunch an enjoyable time for all.

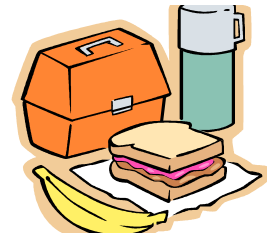
*(Lunch rules will be sent home with your child.)*

Students misbehaving or causing problems during this time will:

- a) be given a warning.
- b) be isolated for lunch and parents will be informed.
- c) lose the privilege to eat lunch at school.

This is still an ongoing concern and, therefore, the rules will be more strictly enforced. It is important we receive cooperation from both students and parents.

Any child staying for lunch will not leave the school grounds during the noon hour unless arrangements are made by the parent and office personnel are informed. We encourage parents to reinforce this in their children.



## PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT

We will continue to use the Manitoba Education & Training provincial Grade 3 Mathematics and Language Arts assessment process to determine growth in specific areas. It will be carried out in the fall.

## REPORTING

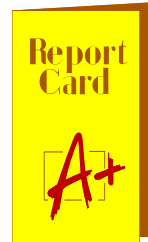
Each student will receive a minimum of three progress reports -- December, March and June.

General parent conferences will take place in fall and spring. All parents are encouraged to keep this appointment with the teacher(s).

Presently, the Kindergarten-Grade 4 reports are based on classroom observations and evaluation of specific skills learned. Some evaluation in Grades 3 and 4 will be done through periodic testing. Report cards use a checklist of skills and anecdotal reports.

Grade 5 reports are based on daily observations, projects and assignments completed, tests and participation in classroom activities.

Teachers are encouraged to report to parents at any time should they notice specific changes occurring. We invite parents to contact teachers at any time to discuss their child's progress.



## STUDENT PLACEMENT

The following outlines the promotion system in our school:

- A. **Complete Pass** - Students who successfully complete the requirements for the grade they are in.
- B. **Placement** - Students who have not completed grade requirements, but are moved to another grade level may be due to several reasons:
  - socially desirable or age factor which would be to the child's benefit.
  - giving a child the benefit of trying the next grade level for the purpose of developing a positive self-image.
  - students develop at different rates, so the child is given the benefit of doubt in order to work with her/his own peer group.
- C. **Continuation at the same grade level** - Various considerations are taken into account such as:
  - lack of skills
  - developmentally (socially, emotionally, academically) not ready

Communication with parents will take place well in advance.



## **LOCKERS**

Grade 4A and Grade 5 students are provided with lockers. Students are expected to treat them with care and maintain them in a neat manner. Stickers will not be placed anywhere on lockers. Students will not use locks.

Lockers are the property of the school and, therefore, are subject to inspection at any time.

## **CRITERIA IN SELECTING STUDENTS FOR CLASSES**

The following criteria will be used in determining the makeup of a class:

- even-sized classes  
(taking into account special needs students may lower a class size)
- boy/girl ratio
- independence or dependence of a student
- groupings  
(for resource assistance)
- integration of students at different academic levels
- awareness of student clashes - peer interactions
- student/teacher/parent compatibility
- special conditions  
(medical, etc.)

Even though parent input is welcome, we expect the school team to create classes that will be most compatible.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL "EARTH" SCHOOL**

Because of the fragile nature of our ecology, we want to teach children the importance of being responsible citizens of our earth. Our intent is to integrate environmental awareness and positive actions into different areas.

We take the responsibility seriously and try to work with the community to bring about change. Any suggestions from parents or community are welcome.

We are now an "EARTH" school (completed 1000 environmental projects). Our goal is to continue to exhibit a responsible and caring attitude towards our environment.





## TECHNOLOGY

Our Computer Lab has a class set of computers connected to a central server. Each classroom is also networked to the server and therefore has access to the Internet as well.

With assistance from our Parent Advisory Council, "Computers in the Classroom" program, S.V.S.D. Technology Department and our school budget, we are continually upgrading our hardware and software. We try to keep pace with technological advances.



## LIBRARY

We have a librarian who looks after the library for 4 hours daily.

We are continuing to build up our fiction, non-fiction and reference sections.

Our library is also equipped with a CD-Rom and an Internet program which allows us to use computerized encyclopedias and other reference materials.

Our circulation and research functions are computerized. Students use a computer to search for specific books or topics.

Our Library has a fairly good selection of fiction and reference resources. In order to maintain and build up the resources we need to insure all borrowed materials are returned and treated with proper care.

Misuse or loss of materials may result in fines to cover replacement costs.

Our main purpose for developing our Library is to make as many reading experiences available to students as possible - through pleasure reading or research.

## INFORMATION TO PARENTS

A school newsletter is sent home on a monthly basis. It includes events taking place at school, educational information for parents, as well as information about upcoming events. A monthly calendar is included.

Newsletters are sent home with the youngest child of each family.

Bulletins of specific information go home on a regular basis as well. Our school website also contains information and parents are encouraged to check it out at [www.svsd.ca/taylor/](http://www.svsd.ca/taylor/).

Ideas to make the Newsletter more informative?? Please let us know! Contact the school by email at [kkopecky@svsd.ca](mailto:kkopecky@svsd.ca).



Partnership

They bring their child to me  
And hope I'll come to know  
How much the offspring means to them,  
Their trust in me bestowed.

They bring their child to me  
With love and hope and pride,  
Looking for a helping hand,  
A teacher who will guide.

They bring their child to me,  
And our partnership is clear:  
To nurture and allow to bloom  
A life we both hold dear.

They bring their child to me,  
A step toward letting go  
And trusting in our special plan  
To help the child grow.

*By Gloria Weber Hennesst*

