

Blyth Academy Newsletter

Nov. 29, 2018

VISION

To be a global leader in providing accessible, experiential, progressive learning experiences that prepare students for academic success at the primary, intermediate, secondary and post-secondary education levels.

MISSION

To have outstanding school leaders and educators facilitate the development of knowledge and character in our students through a caring, supportive and culturally sensitive learning community that brings together international and local students in a harmonious, creative, supportive environment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 9th	Qatar National Day @ Blyth Academy! ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED
Dec. 3rd	School Advisory Council Agenda items to david.brazeau@blytheducation.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR Jr. HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM!





GRADE 12 UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

STUDENT	UNIVERSITY	PROGRAM
Olivia Brisseau	Carleton University	Science: Honours (4 year Program)
Angus	Bishop's University	Economics
Michael	University of Saskatchewan	Anatomy and Cell Biology

LIVE INTERVIEWS

GET TO KNOW MS. SULLIVAN



**Name: Ms. Darlene Sullivan
Role: Deputy Head**

What is your favourite thing about the school?
 What I love about this school is the diversity of the students and staff. I have enjoyed getting to know the students and have learned so much from them about their different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. The relationships I have developed with the staff have broadened my perspective and overall global awareness. Blyth Academy has truly enriched my life and I am very grateful for the opportunity to come from Canada to experience living in the Middle East and working in this wonderful school that has so much potential.



What would you change about the school?
 I think as an administrator of Blyth Academy I continuously reflect on ways that would improve our school and feel that we have made some positive changes already in the last couple of years. It would be remiss of me not to mention first and foremost, that I would love to see a new school building for Blyth Academy's students and staff. I know that there are currently plans in place to build a brand new school and this can't come soon enough! There is so much potential for growth at Blyth Academy, and the students and staff would thrive even more in a new building with more space and better facilities. I would also like to see our positive learning environment continue to grow with a mindset of focusing on healthy and active living. Students who take ownership for their overall well-being, physically, mentally and spiritually will be successful in school and life in general. We have some good initiatives in place, but I feel that we should continue to expand on them as much as possible.

What’s your favourite pastime?

My favorite pastime and priority is to spend quality time with my family whenever possible. I also enjoy good times and meaningful conversations with close friends. Travelling to experience and learn about other counties and cultures is also something I love to do and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to do so in this part of the world. I have visited countries and gained new insight into places I never dreamed I’d ever be able to visit.

Reading a good book, going to a movie, trying new foods at different restaurants, walking, doing a ‘bit’ of exercise and beach time are also favorite pastimes of mine. A new (as of last year), pastime of mine is scuba diving which I hope to continue and maybe even swim with sharks some day!

Do you like musicals?

Yes, I love musicals! I’m always in awe of the talents that shine through in the performers of those on stage. I love how musicals tell a story in an upbeat way through the gift of music. I especially enjoy watching our students perform and how they can express themselves creatively. We have so much talent here for a small school and it should be highlighted and celebrated whenever possible!

GET TO KNOW MS. WHYTE

Name: Ms. Colleen Whyte

Role: Sr. High English Teacher



What is your favourite quote?

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” — Nelson Mandela
I truly like this quote as I believe that your words are more powerful than violence. Your knowledge of the world and society will never depart until God decides it’s time.

What is your favourite book?

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. This poem is solely about suffering, struggling along comes bravery, determination and believing in oneself.

What’s the hardest part about teaching English?

Everything. There isn’t anything easy about it, but I’m passionate about instill knowledge no matter what is one’s background, race and socio-economic background. Being passionate about what I do, it makes teaching so rewarding.

Why did you change from Junior High to High School?

First of all, I'm trained to teach High School. Secondly, I wanted a challenge, and to go deeper into more controversial and relevant topics to broaden my students' knowledge in varied ways of thinking.

What celebrity would you rate as a perfect 10?

Nobody's perfect. That would mean that they don't make mistakes, but everyone does. Someone who inspires me is Nelson Mandela, because he was so young and courageous. He stood up for what he believed in no matter what.

What is your favourite thing about the school?

The students. They are very open, friendly, and I like the diversity and culture. They treat each other with respect.

What are your hobbies?

I like to bake, run, read, and relax.

Do you have any hidden talents?

Writing, and it's hidden because I have yet to bring it out all my creativity on paper.

INTERVIEWING JUNE'S GRADUATES

Name: Olivia Brisseau

Grade: 12



University applied to: StFx, McMaster, University of Ottawa, Carleton, Queens, Ryerson, Western, and CNAQ

Name of Program: Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Respiratory Therapy.

Why that Program: Respiratory Therapy - went on an interesting field trip that inspired her to choose the program Psychology- something that always interested her
Bachelor of Arts- the university that she applied to for didn't offer a Bachelor of Science.



Name: Morganna Macdonald

Grade: 12



University applied to: Dalhousie University, University of PEI, and StFX

Name of Program: Pre-vet medicine, Bachelor's of biology

Why that Program: Wants to get DMV and become a veterinarian for horses and cattle.



A WALK AROUND OUR CLASSROOMS

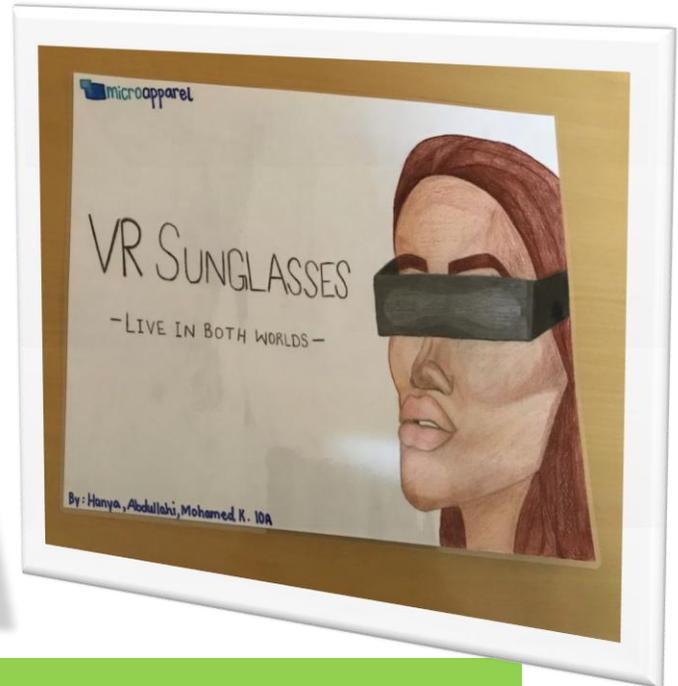
SCIENCE 10

The grade 10s are working on presentations that will summarize a Unit about biology! Very interesting!



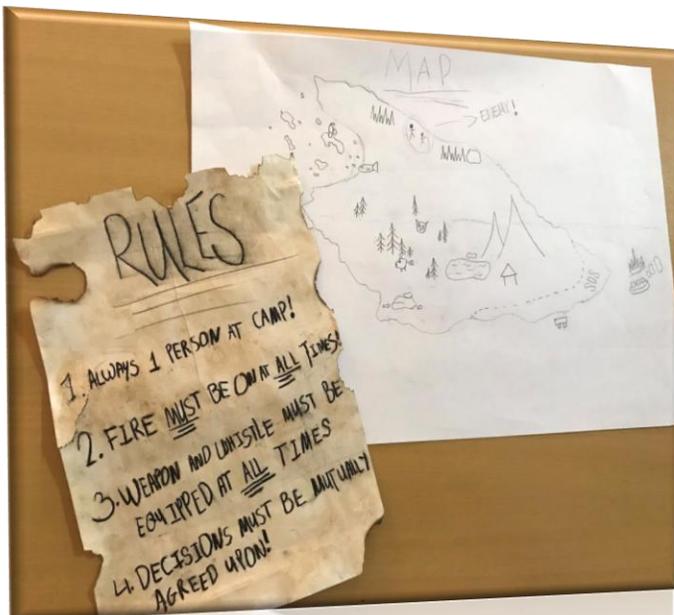
ENGLISH 10

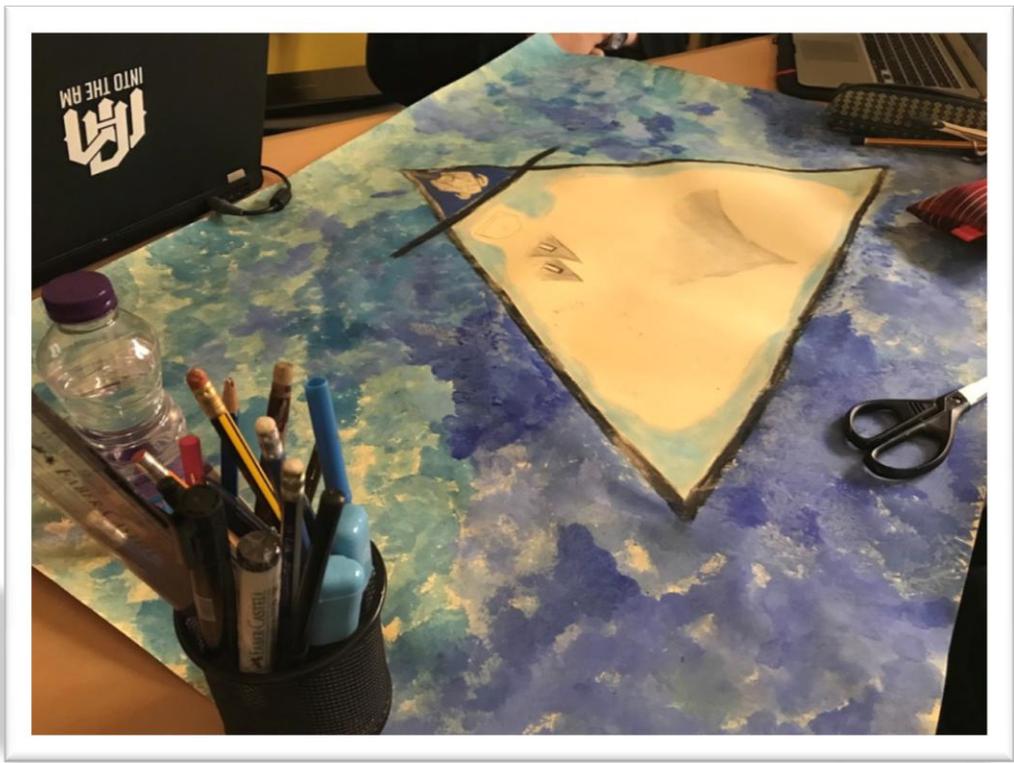
The Grade 10s are exploring different types of advertising such as billboards, posters, and TV ads. They'll look at why they're used, the pros and cons of using them, and if they are affective. They will also use them to advertise their own products. Looks great!



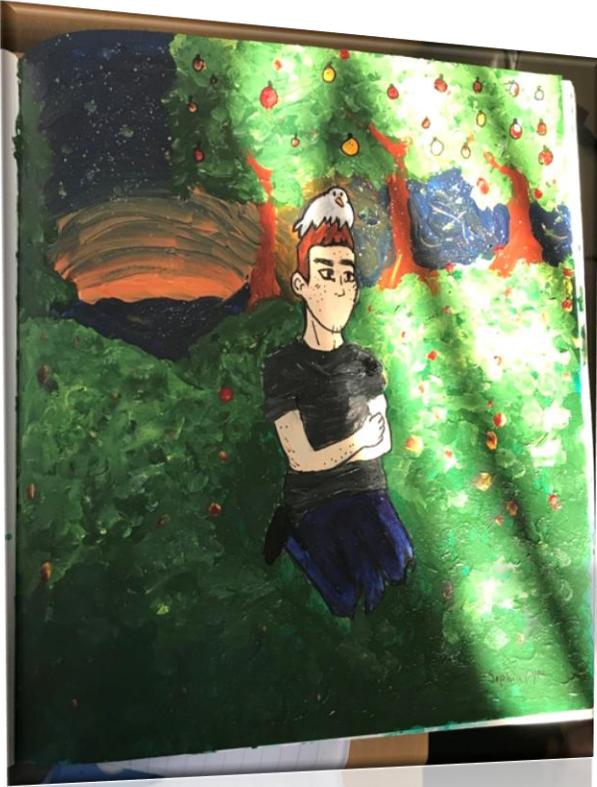
ENGLISH 11

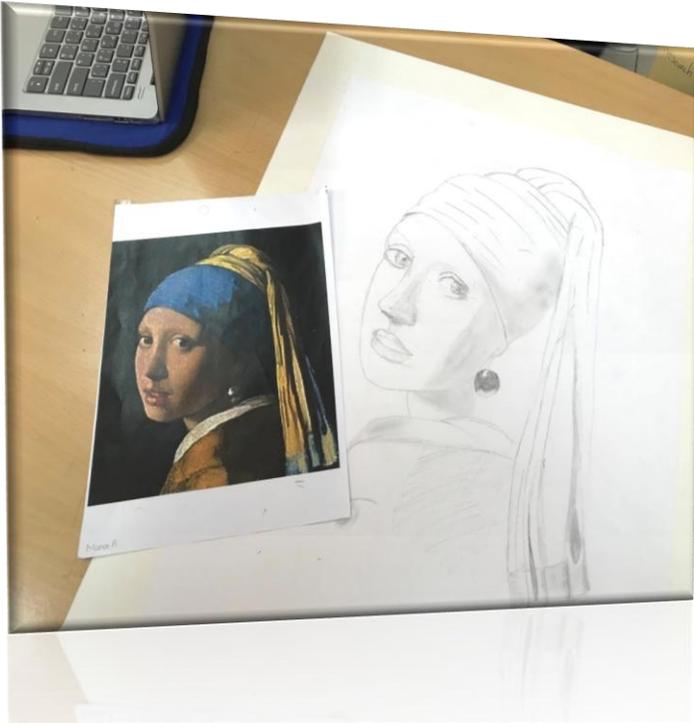
The Grade 11 English students are reading "Lord of the Flies" for novel study. For their projects, they had a choice between making a map of the island or come up with a shipwreck plan. They look very cool.





SENIOR HIGH ART:





GRADE 5'S:

Math: Working on strategies for division.

Science: Wrapping up their Chemistry Unit.

English: Learning how to write letters. They are also reading a novel book called 'Holes'.

Work Hard Grade 5s!



GRADE 4:

In P.E, the Grade 4's are playing handball with different teams! Wow!



JK – Ms. Jean & Ms. Heidi

The JK's are having fun playing in the playground and sandbox! Play is important, especially for kids' sensory skills!



SK – MS. AMAL & MR. BOB

The SK's painted birds, using their handprints! Very creative and cute!
The students are studying "R" words and the beset for them to know is RESPECT.

Both SK classes had their Grade 6 reading buddies helping them with artwork.

Our class has adopted a plant to have in our classroom This plant is in need of TLC. The students really want this plant to become very vibrant. The goal is to work as a community and care for this "monstera". They are even saying kind words to it.

Also the students each chose a mint plant to look after. It is a cutting that they will attempt too nurture and follow as time passes. The end goal is to have the students take a potted mint plant home.





معسكر صانع الشتوي 2018 - SANEA WINTER CAMP 2018

Students with an interest in robotics and technology

Registration is open for our Sanea Winter Camp 2018, occurring Dec 23rd – Jan 3rd for kids aged 6 to 18, at Qatar Foundation's LAS Building. Sanea is the ultimate 'making' experience, where kids use engineering, technology and science to imagine, design and build their own creations.

We have an action-packed program lined up this year that is sure to excite and engage your students through cool workshops in 3D design and 3D printing, laser cutting, game design, electronics, and fun science experiments!

Join us at the first makers camp in Qatar

Sanea Winter Camp

23 Dec. - 3 Jan.

Registration is open for the following age groups

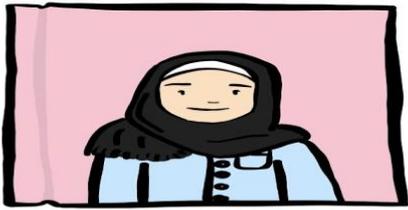
6-8 years	9-11 years
12-14 years	15-18 years

📍 LAS Building/ Qatar Foundation

Register now



+97433859404 | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) /saneame | [www.saneame-camp.com](#)

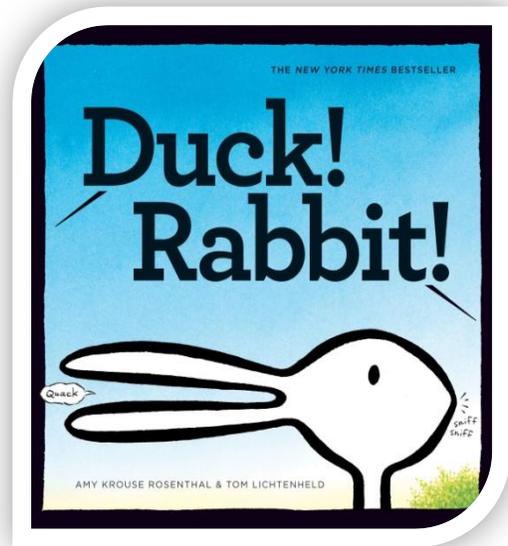


SUZAN'S BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

JKs & SK

Duck! Rabbit!

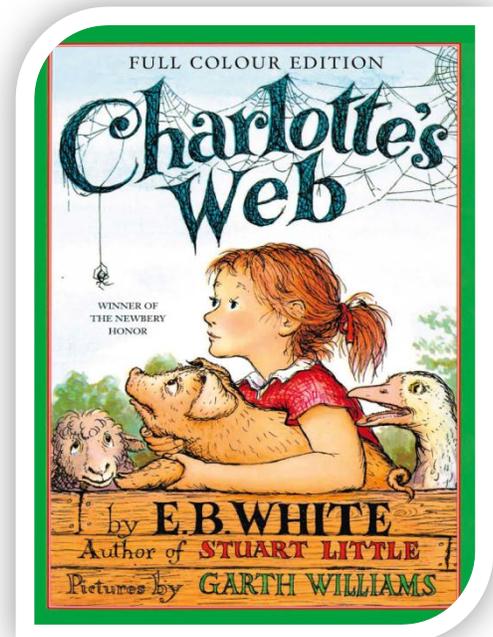
This book is super fun, because it's about an animal, but you don't know whether it's a duck or rabbit. We see two different opinions. One person thinks it's a duck, and one thinks it's a rabbit.



GRADES 1-3

Charlotte's Web

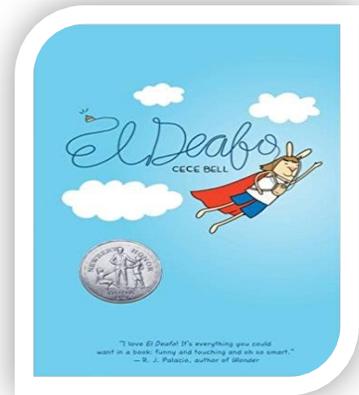
This book is a classic, and there are so many things about it that make it SUCH a good book. One thing is that it has a great opening sentence. Another thing is that it shows a nicer side to spiders. It also reminds us of the importance of having a good friend.



GRADES 4-6

El Deafo

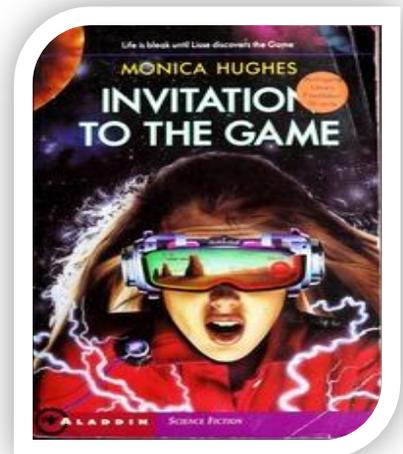
El Deafo is a quick and fun read. It's a comic book about a deaf bunny, and her struggles as she uses different ways to communicate with her friends and family.



GRADES 7-9

Invitation to the Game

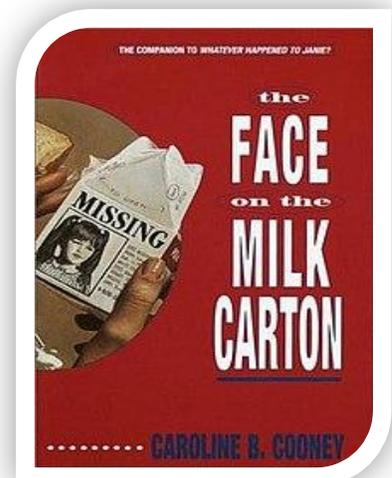
Invitation to the Game is a dystopian novel set in the year 2154. By 2154, robots and machines would do all the jobs, so many people were unemployed. Unemployed people would be lower than the employed people, so they would have to find ways to have fun and escape reality.



GRADES 10-12

The Face on the Milk Carton

This book has an interesting plot. Janie has a happy life with parents who love her, but one day she finds a missing child ad on her milk carton, and the missing child is her. I won't say more.

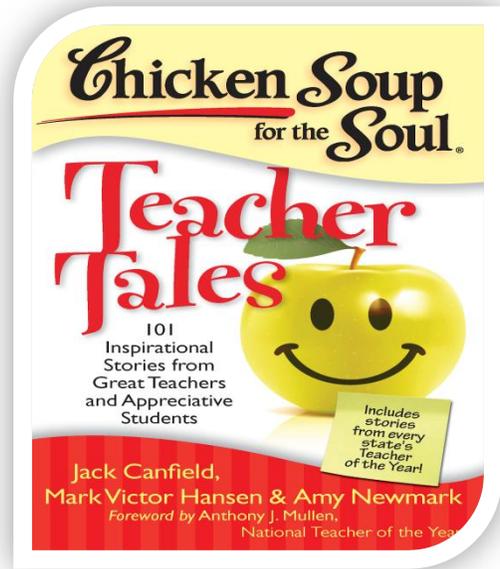


PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Chicken Soup for the Soul - Teacher Tales

Ms. Whyte chose this book because she feels that it was very inspirational. It's former student stories about how teachers inspired them to do amazing things, like write books. It reminds teachers that they can make a difference to students.

For any inquiries, email me Suzan at:
suzan.kadri@qcs.edu.qa



STARS OF THE WEEK

Salman Kadri

Salman has continually taken the initiative to clean up the outdoor area on his own. Any trash he sees on the ground he has picked up and thrown it into the bin. These efforts and attention to detail have been noticed and are much appreciated. Way to lead by example Salman!



Asyah Aidarus

Asyah is a dedicated student who consistently extends her learning outside of the classroom. She is friendly to all of her classmates and helps them when she can. Keep up the great work Asyah!



Katie Oldford

Katie has done an excellent job assisting with School Newsletter and has been a great role model for her peers. She completes her class work on time and makes sure it is done to the best of her ability. She is also very supportive to her peers both in and out of the classroom. Keep up the great work Katie!



Lina Kan'an

Lina has been very supportive to her peers both in and out of the classroom. She performed exceptionally well on a recent evaluation in Social Studies and has been humble in her demeanour after such success. Great work Lina!



WEEKLY TOPIC

Setting Limits on Video Games

by Deborah Godfrey



The average teenager watches 7.5 hours of television, video games, computer every day. This is a horrifying number, in my opinion. While TV can be educational, most of what the children watch when left to their judgment is certainly not educational.

Most of you that have taken [my class](#) know that I haven't had television for over 9 years. That is, I have no cable with stations and such. I do have a TV with a VCR and we have a library of videos and rent movies all the time. We also play many board games. Three years ago, we bought a PlayStation. In addition, we have a wide variety of games that play on the computer, some educational, some not. I have many of the same fights over these forms of media that families with cable have over programs that the kids are watching. Over the years I have come up with some strategies for handling the fighting and excessive use of these toys. Setting limits on video games became a struggle that I took seriously and had many successes and challenges.

One of the problems is that kids ignore parents when they are watching TV. They forget to eat, clean up after themselves, do their chores and play. Parents nag, kids ignore, the battle rages everyday in this manner.

The key to taking back control of the media in your home is to **make agreements ahead of time** – before the TV/computer ever goes on. There should be a clear agreement that spells out the limits and rules about the use of the game. When a new “Spiro” game comes out on PlayStation, my kids will fight for days (if no agreements are made) over who gets to play. The rule we have is that they must make a schedule before they turn it on. They have to agree who plays, for how long and even write down exactly what time each will play. They all have to sign it, as if it's a contract. Here's what it might look like:

Who gets to be on Play Station:

Michelle 3:30-4:00

Briana 4:00-4:30

Michael 4:30-5:00

X _____ X _____ X _____

The first agreement is that they must do this before they turn on the game. The second agreement is that they make a detailed schedule of who plays and when. It must be hung up on the refrigerator. That way, if I think one kid is over the limit, or if there is a fight over whose turn it is, I can simply refer to the schedule. If they do not adhere to their agreement, than the game is off for the day. I have found this routine to be a great way to keep myself out of the battles and for the kids to work out their issues with each other.

With television, you can set limits in a similar manner. Sit down with the family on Sunday when the TV Guide arrives. Make a chart with the programs that each will watch, make sure to have the TV off at all other times. One mom I know also includes a “NO TV” night every week.

It is also helpful to make an agreement about what needs to happen before turning on the TV or video game. For example, my son likes to get up early and play. The agreement is that he has to be fully ready for school before he turns on the computer. It is spelled out in the agreement that he needs to get dressed, eat breakfast, brush his teeth and make his lunch. After just a few weeks of following through with the consequences, he learned to get everything finished before turning on the games.

The most important factor for the agreement to work is consistent follow through. Make sure that you stay involved with the kids, both in the agreement-making phase and while they are playing. Make sure that they adhere to the schedule. Follow through with the consequences with a kind and firm attitude. **“It’s a bummer that the PlayStation is off for the rest of the day”**. Don’t give in to their pleading or promises. *The giving in is what undermines our authority*. The children come to believe that if they make promises to behave better, then we will give in. They typically forget in a rather short period of time and we become exhausted and angry that they are not keeping their end of the bargain. However, if we have agreed that the TV will go off if the agreement is not kept, and then we give in to a “bargain” we are showing our children that bargains do not necessarily have to be kept. This is why the battle goes on and on.

During the training period of implementing a new agreement (usually 2-4 weeks) it is very important to maintain [complete consistency](#) and follow-through. Being flexible should not be an option during the training phase of the agreement. Flexibility is crucial in parenting, and there is a time and place for it. The time for flexibility is not while helping children learn a new routine. Once a new routine is established, then you can become more flexible if you think that is appropriate. My experience has led me to believe that too much flexibility with routines leads to misbehaving kids. It’s better to maintain consistency with agreements and be flexible with issues that come up “in the moment”. That is just my experience.

With some work and effort initially, making agreements with the kids and creating a plan for follow-through, you can avoid so many of the headaches you face on a daily basis, fighting over the excessive TV watching or fights over the TV. **Start today, making a family routine that brings order and sanity to your home!**

*(*note...I wrote this article in 2001, so while the media our kids are using has changed, my ideas for setting limits has not! Please read and substitute whatever form of electronic entertainment you kids over-use for TV, and try the ideas accordingly...)*



HAPPY
WEEKEND