

Friends of Valley View,

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child! Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most. We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to open a world of possibilities!*

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme is: **Sir Readalot's Castle: Enter the Kingdom of Books!** This theme surrounds our students in a celebration of reading with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for them to discover. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. Like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get.

Reading is vital to every child's success, and raising kids as readers means getting involved while they're young. Now is the time! Since there will never be a substitute for a parent's direct involvement in a child's education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. I will plan to see you there!

**Book Fair Dates: October 13-16**

**Shopping Hours: 8:00-4:30 Monday – Wednesday & 8:00-7:30 Thursday**

**Special Events: Family Night & Free Dinner Thursday, Oct. 16 beginning at 5:00**

Before you visit the Book Fair be sure to download the FREE Book Fairs App to help you find the right books for your child. For more information, visit: [scholastic.com/apps/bookfairs](http://scholastic.com/apps/bookfairs). If you're all booked up during Book Fair Week, be sure to visit the Book Fair online at [scholastic.com/fair](http://scholastic.com/fair).

Finally, I know and understand communication issues! Miscommunication causes 99% of the World's problems. I came across the following website that might be of service: <http://www.simplesimonandco.com/2014/08/25-ways-ask-kids-school-today-without-asking-school-today.html> The basic theme and idea is listed Page 2 of this PPP. I wish I had this list when my kids were young. Enjoy!

Respectfully submitted by,

Gary Pflueger, Principal

In closing, a poem in support of the Book Fair:

**The more you read, the more you know,  
The more you know, the smarter you grow,  
The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice,  
When speaking your mind or making a choice!**

## 25 Ways to Ask Your Child “How Was School Today?” without asking them “How Was School Today?”

<http://www.simplesimonandco.com/2014/08/25-ways-ask-kids-school-today-without-asking-school-today.html>

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
- #2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- #3. If you could choose who would you like to sit by in class? (Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
- #4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
- #5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
- #6. If I called your teacher tonight what would she tell me about you?
- #7. How did you help somebody today?
- #8. How did somebody help you today?
- #9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
- #10. When were you the happiest today?
- #11. When were you bored today?
- #12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed up someone who would you want them to take?
- #13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?
- #14. Tell me something good that happened today.
- #15. What word did your teacher say most today?
- #16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
- #17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
- #18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
- #19. Where do you play the most at recess?
- #20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
- #21. What was your favorite part of lunch?
- #22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?
- #23. Is there anyone in your class that needs a time out?
- #24. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class who would you trade with? Why?
- #25. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.

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So far...my favorite answers have come from questions #12, #15, and #21.

I actually love questions like the “alien” one (#12). They give kids a non-threatening way to say who they would rather not have in their class, and open the door for you to have a discussion to ask why, potentially uncovering issues you didn't know about before.

And the answers we get are sometimes really surprising. When I asked question #3, I discovered that one of my children didn't want to sit by a best friend in class anymore — not out of a desire to be mean or bully, but in the hope they'd get the chance to work with other people.

Sometimes we just need to figure out the right kinds of questions to ask our children....some questions may work better for some kids than others. That's how it is with my own children. But I want to know what is going on in their lives and how I can help them. So....I will continue to ask...and ask...and ask... And, as my kids get older I know that I am going to have to work harder and harder to stay engaged with them...but I know its going to be worth the work...-liz