Dear Sangster Community,

Thank you for your help getting the year off to a great start! The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. Sangster students returned to school ready to learn and are immersed in active learning in their classrooms during the day.

It was a pleasure seeing you at our Back-To-School Nights earlier in September. Thank you for completing the survey. We are analyzing the feedback we received from parents and staff members and using it to help design next year’s Back-To-School night. More information forthcoming about next year’s BTSN date and time.

In elementary school, we spend a large amount of time focusing on language arts. Reading is a critical skill for adults and students. Elementary school is a place to gain reading comprehension skills that last a lifetime. A new school year brings exciting challenges. We find as children grow older, they do less “learning to read” and more “reading to learn.” Many of your child’s homework assignments will include reading for information. Studies have also shown that non-fiction reading and writing will enhance student achievement.

To assist your child at home with reading comprehension, you may consider asking the following questions:

1) **What is this about?** Before your child reads his/her homework assignment, ask this question to prompt forward thinking. This will allow your child to relate to the topic to what he/she already knows and get his/her mind ready to learn new information

2) **What are the most important ideas?** Encourage your child to look at the pictures, graphs and subtitles to also help capture the main idea of the chapter

3) **What is most interesting?** Talk about what he/she has read will help children remember the information

4) **What surprised you?** New information can sometimes change the way a child thinks. This question will help him/her identify facts that are different from previously formed ideas and opinions

5) **What did you find out that you didn’t know before?** Applaud your child’s new knowledge

One of the best ways to encourage reading is for your children to see adults reading and talking about what they have read. So, pick up a good book and read, read, read! Thanks for all you are doing to support student learning. As always, I welcome your comments and feedback. Please call (703) 644-8200 or email me anytime.
Active Learning
Learners retain:

10% of what they hear
15% of what they see
20% of what they see and hear
40% of what they discuss
80% of what they experience directly
90% of what they attempt to teach others

--Educational Kinesiology Foundation