In order to support and improve the whole school community, the School Counselor will be publishing an informative series of articles. We are committed to collaborating with you, as primary educators of your children, to encourage their spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional growth.

What About Rewards?

There are many different ideas about rewarding good behavior. Many people believe that children shouldn't need rewards to do the right thing. Others find that small rewards help improve behavior. I have found it useful to think about what kinds of rewards work better than others. After all, even adults sometimes get rewards for working hard. In this series of articles I will present some ways to think about rewards.

There are many different types of reward. Here's one that works well:

*As-soon-as* rewards. This is an effective way to use the natural, small rewards that come from good behavior: "As soon as you are ready for bed, you can have a story." "When your homework is done you can go out and play." "As soon as you finish your vegetables you can have dessert." As-soon-as rewards make sense to kids and help them learn. Note: I am not suggesting that we say to children: "As soon as you stop fussing I will change my mind and get you that toy." Once parents or teachers say no, kids need to learn that crying, having tantrums, or screaming won't make us give in.