

**AWANA: NEED TO KNOW
2017-2018**

- **Awana Environment:** My heart for Awana is for children to be able to learn from God's Word through memorization, comprehension, and application. For me, the memory verse is not an end in and of itself. For we want to help children understand the words and phrases and sentences they are memorizing to the extent that they are able to comprehend them. In addition, God desires that we not just be hearers of the word but also doers of it (James 1:22). So, it's important that children understand God's Word and its importance for their lives (the "so what?") so that they may begin obeying the Lord in the context of a personal relationship with Him.
- **Completing Sections at Home:** If the section your child is working on at home has a memory verse (as most sections do), he or she will need to recite the verse to you with 2 or fewer helps from you. A help is a word, gesture, facial expression or any other hint that is given to the child to help him or her recite the verse.
- **Attire:** Please have your child wear close-toed shoes so that he or she will be safe during game time. I'll be encouraging children to wear their uniforms. I know there will be times that it will be forgotten or left at home. I've done the same with my Awana shirt. To help encourage children to wear close-toed shoes, they will receive an Awana Buck if they wear their uniform (which includes proper footwear). Children will need to wear their uniform if they want to be able to hold the Bible or a flag during Opening Ceremony.
- **Awana Bucks:** Awana Bucks are received for the following things and can be used to purchase items at the Awana store, which will occur about 3-4 times this year.
 - 1 Buck for:
 - Bringing handbook to Awana
 - Wearing uniform and **closed toed shoes** (important for game time!!!)
 - Bringing Bible
 - Being here ☺
 - Bringing a friend (plus, your child & their friend will receive a candy bar)
 - Reciting the verse(s) from a section to a leader
 - *For T&T (3rd-5th Grade): Completing devotions (Start Here & Explore) in a section*
 - 2 Bucks for
 - Completing a section at home and having parent sign by the leader's signature line.
 - *Cubbies: "Completing Under the Apple Tree"*
- **Awana Schedule:** An Awana schedule that includes a list of theme nights, days we will not have Awana, and a guide you can use to help your child complete their handbook in a year is included in this packet.

Awana 2017-2018

Sparkies, K-2nd Grade

Handbook:

Sparkies will first complete the *Flight 3:16* booklet. When they complete this booklet or if they have completed this booklet in a previous year, they will begin working through their class handbook (K: HangGlider, 1st: WingRunner, 2nd: SkyStormer). Handbook is divided up into Jewels—8 of them. Each Jewel is further divided into 4 sections. Your child will want to complete the sections at home in keeping with their handbook schedule, which is included in this packet. After your child completes a section, please place your initials at the bottom of the page underneath the words “Leader Signature.” When your child recites the verse(s) from a section to their leader, the leader will sign where it says “Leader’s Signature.”

Awana Bucks:

Your child will receive 1 Awana Buck for each of the following: bringing their handbook, attending club, wearing their uniform, bringing their Bible to club, bringing a friend, and reciting their verse to their leader. Two Awana Bucks will be given for having a parent’s initials at the end of a section. (Please only initial if your child completes all of the requirements for that section.) These Awana Bucks can then be used to buy items at our “Awana Store” on select Wednesdays throughout the year.

Uniform:

Sparks uniform consists of a Sparkie vest and shoes. Please make sure your child is wearing closed toe shoes as this is very important during game time. Awana Bucks will not be received for the uniform if proper shoes are not worn. Open-toed shoes pose such a danger when they are running due to tripping or even getting toes stepped on. We want the children to have a great time and be injury free!

Spending Time With God At Home

This year in Sparks, we will be encouraging and motivating children to complete their sections at home. The handbook is a wonderful devotional tool to help children learn more about God, His Word, a relationship with Him, and growth in Jesus. So, please make it a point to work with your child every week to complete their section(s).

Encourage your child to read the Bible stories in their handbook and not just memorize the verses since the message in the verses often correspond to the Bible stories.

Why are we doing these things?

- God gave us His Word not so we would place it in short term memory just long enough to recite it to someone else (and then end up forgetting it or not applying it to our lives). He gave us His Word ultimately so that we would be changed. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17.) I trust that the class activities and the work done at home will help children remember more of God’s Word.
- At Grace Place, we value family and believe that God has called parents to be the primary spiritual influencers in the lives of their children. That’s why we’re asking and expecting parents to be intentionally engaged in the growth of their children that can/will take place through this helpful tool we call Awana. Parents, your children are dependent upon you for their spiritual growth and the Lord will enable you to lead your children as you depend upon Him! You can do it!

Book Awards:

- A child will receive a jewel on his/her wings for each Jewel that he/she completes.
- A child will receive an award at the end of the year for completing his/her handbook. In order to receive this award, he/she will need to have completed all of the “Jewels” in the handbook.