Dear Sparkie Parents,

Welcome to Awana! Sparks is an Awana Ministries Club designed for children in kindergarten, first, and second grades. Your child will learn God’s Word through memorization of Scripture using the handbook, listening to the CD, and through Bible teaching. We also make Awana fun and exciting by playing games in the gym as well as earning awards! For more information, see the Awana website at http://awana.org/sparks. We are looking forward to a fantastic year together, working toward our goal of training children to know, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ!

Because Kids Matter to God,
Wendy Sweeney and TBD
Sparks Co-Directors

Earning the Handbook and Vest
Every new Sparkie starts with the Flight 3:16 entrance booklet which consists of Bible verses to be memorized at home with the help of parents or other family members. Upon completion of Flight 3:16 your child will receive the Hang Glider Handbook and the red Sparks vest!

Handbook Progress
Sparks is a three year program for kindergarten, first, and second graders, to be completed at their own pace:

- **HangGlider Book** (first year, green)
- **WingRunner Book** (second year, blue)
- **SkyStormer Book** (third year, red)

- Please note that first or second graders new to Awana will begin with the Hang Glider Book and are allowed to complete more than one handbook per year.
- Each Wednesday evening your child will recite one or more sections to their Leader. A section includes everything that needs to be memorized on that page before the Leader may sign off. Two or less helps may be given per section. (As you guide your child’s memorization at home, it would be helpful to indicate with a check mark or sticky note which sections your child is prepared to recite that night.) The CD found in the back of the handbook is a great tool for at home (or in the car) studying.
- After completing the handbook, your child may continue on with the Book Review by redoing the sections marked with a “Review” circle. Upon Review completion, you may purchase the Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Cards which contain all the handbook review verses as well as brand new verses to memorize.
- Unfinished handbooks are completed the following year.
- For a schedule of “How to Finish Your Handbook in a Year” go to the HCC Awana website at: http://highlandscc.org/awana/

Wednesday Sparks Schedule

6:15 pm Check-in – Parents must first use the computerized check-in system and obtain a check-in slip for their child prior to check-in with the Awana Secretary outside the Fellowship Hall. Coats should be placed in the Sparks team color bucket. Leaders will ensure that children place their handbooks and Bibles in team color bins as they guide them into the Fellowship Hall for singing and teaching with their Leaders. Children should wear their Sparks vest!

6:30 pm Large Group Time – Club starts with salutes to the American and Awana flags, followed by prayer, Bible teaching, and presentation of awards.

7:00 pm Game Time/Handbook Time – Half our Sparkies transition to the gym with their Leaders for high energy games. The other half transition to Handbook Time with their Leaders where they will recite sections from their handbooks.

7:30 pm - The groups will rotate from Game to Handbook Time and from Handbook to Game Time.

8:00 pm Parent pickup of child - Parents must first use the computerized check out system to obtain a checkout slip for their child. Leaders will greet parents at the handbook time room doorway, verify information on the checkout slip, and bring the child to the parent.

Phone Calls from Leaders
Awana Leaders do their best to call to each Sparkie once a week. The purpose of the calls is to: let you know what’s coming up at Awana, encourage your child in their handbook progress and to get to know them better!
Awards - Patches, Jewels, and Wings

For each handbook, there are twelve achievement jewels, four of each color, which go on the pilot wings:

- **Red** – For completion of Bible drill sections which must be done in order.
- **Green** – For completion of activity sections which may be done in any order.
- **Blue** – For club attendance with no more than one unexcused absence per quarter.

Jewels and awards are sent home with the Sparkie the week following section completion. Sparkies finishing the Book Review will earn the Book Review Emblem and those completing the Frequent Flyer Extra Credit Cards will receive a Frequent Flyer Pin. Refer to the Uniform Awards page at the back of the handbook for awards placement on the vest. “Badge Magic” can be ordered online at awana.org to help secure the patches to the vest without sewing.

**Awana Clubber Expectations**

- Respect God, others, and our church building
- Walk carefully in the hallways
- Always stay with your Leader
- Obey a Leader’s directions
- Be aware of your personal space, and keep hands to yourself
- Use the buddy system when walking to the restroom or leaving the group for any reason, with your Leader’s permission
- Do not bring gum, candy, food, soda, or personal items to Club

Theme Nights and Events

Each Awana night has a special theme, which could involve dressing up or bringing an item from home. The themes are listed in the Awana Calendar and the weekly Parent Newsletter. Awana also hosts the Grand Prix Car Race and Drive-in Movie Night. These events are optional and designed as an outreach to friends and family to share the gospel of Christ.

**HCC Children’s Health Policy**

To protect the health and safety of our children and Leaders, please keep ill children at home to rest and recover. When well enough to attend again, bring a written note to the check-in Secretary (explaining that child was ill) so the absence will not be counted against the attendance award.

**HCC Children’s Safety Policy**

Awana Team members are identified by a HCC ID Badge, name tag, and Awana Club uniform. Parent or guardian must come into the church building to drop off and pick up their children. Information and digital pictures of registered children and persons authorized to pick up the child are stored in the HCC computerized check in system. All Clubbers must first check in using this system and obtain a check in slip prior to check in with the secretary. If someone other than the authorized person is picking up a child, the parents must notify the Commander or Club Director. All guest children must complete a visitor card and give to the secretary before participating in club. All visitors must check in with the Director or Secretary and wear a Visitor Badge.

**Awana Discipline**

We use a 3-count method for individual discipline. At the first warning the clubber is asked to change his or her behavior; at the second warning, the clubber is removed from the activity; at the third warning, the clubber will talk with the Sparks Director and parents will be notified of the behavior issue.

**Weather and Cancellations**

Our club follows weather cancellations announced by the Renton School District. If school is closed due to weather, Awana will be cancelled that night. If school is delayed, Awana may take place, depending on conditions. Please check the HCC delay/cancellation information line at **206-957-2345** for current status.

**Lost and Found**

Coats left at the church will be hung on the pegs in the 2nd floor hallway near the Forum. Books will be stored in the Awana workroom or in your child’s team bin.

9/11/2015