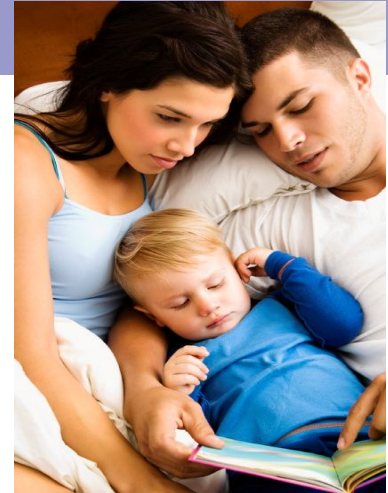


CERF/Title I Parent Connection

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February – I Love to Read Month

“Vocabulary enables us to interpret and express. If you have a limited vocabulary, you will also have a limited vision and a limited future.”

~Jim Rohn

February is one of those months that keeps us connected to family and friends. The quiet time before all spring activities start provides time for children to use many of those reading skills they’ve been working on all year. The Olympic athletes remind us that practice is what it takes to become highly skilled at anything. February is an excellent time to focus on practicing reading for the pure enjoyment of it. Here’s some reading suggestions for your children.

- Kindergarten— *Elmer* by McKee, *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* by Numeroff
- 1st grade—*The Adventures of*

Taxi Dog by Barracca, *The World That Jack Built* by Brown

2nd — *The Dragons of Blue-land* by Gannett, *A River Ran Wild* by Cherry

3rd grade—*Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog* by Turner, *Knights of the Kitchen Table* by Spinelli

4th—*The Chocolate Touch* by Catling, *A Light in the Attic* by Silverstein

5th grade—*America’s Great Disasters* by Sandler, *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Banks

- All children—take your child to the local library and help them get a library card if they do not already have one. Visiting your local library together is a wonderful family activity and it’s FREE! If you do not have a library card, get one yourself so you can check out books and magazines that are of interest to you. Be a reading role model for your children!

5 Pillars of Reading Instruction—Vocabulary

Reading research has identified 5 main areas of reading that are key in reading instruction. These are:

1. Phonemic Awareness—the sounds that letters and words make
2. Phonics—the connection between letters and sounds
3. Fluency—the ability to recognize and read words instantly

4. Vocabulary—words that we speak, read and understand their meaning
5. Comprehension
 We have highlighted Phonemic Awareness and Phonics in the previous newsletters. This month’s newsletter provides information about Fluency instruction. We hope this information will assist you as parents, as you

help your child read.

Centennial schools uses the Treasures reading curriculum. Parent resources for the Treasures curriculum are available online at <http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/minnesota>

Select the tab for Families and you will find a wealth of resources to assist you and your child.

Read
 with
 your
 child
 every
 day!

Parents are Partners in Literacy

Family Math Activities

“The limits of my language are the limits of my mind. All I know is what I have words for.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Math and Literacy

Math vocabulary can be very specific, but relates to so many aspects of our lives. Cooking, shopping, baking, building all require the use of math language. Help your child to see how math and reading are part of everything you do.

As you use math, try to explain in kid language what you are doing. For example, when cooking, explain the measurements you need to use—tablespoons, teaspoons, cup, quarts, etc., and have your child help you

measure the amounts the recipe calls for as you read it aloud. This helps your child see how important reading and math are in daily life.

Shopping is a great hands-on activity for practicing math. Talk to your child about how to count their money, determine if they have enough money, make change or recount their change to make sure it is correct. Deciding what they can buy with the amount of money they have is a great discussion and problem solving activity.

Stop by the Title rooms during Parent/Teacher Conferences for some math ideas. Teachers will have a variety of games and activities you can try out and take home with you. Title buildings will host parents on:

Blue Heron—Feb. 18

Centennial—March 2 & 4

Golden Lake—Feb. 25 & March 2

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words we use to communicate with those around us. We have a speaking vocabulary which means the words we use when we talk and those that we understand when we are listening to others talk. Our reading vocabulary is the words that we know and understand when we read.

Vocabulary is very important to reading because children can more

easily understand and learn words in print if they already know what those words mean. When we don't understand a word, it's much harder for us to read it.

Vocabulary is also very important for comprehension. Even as an adult, if we read a word and don't know what it means, it becomes very difficult for us to understand and comprehend what the text is telling us.

So the larger a child's vocabulary, the more they will understand both is talking and listening, but also as they read.

Children's vocabulary grows when they have interesting conversations with adults, listen to adults read aloud to them and then when they read on their own. Increasing all of these activities can help expand vocabulary.

“One forgets words as one forgets names. One's vocabulary needs constant fertilizing.”

Evelyn Waugh

Spotlight on Third Grade: Ways You Can Improve Vocabulary At Home

Here are some important ways to help improve your child's vocabulary skills at home:

- 1) *Talk to your child about their day. Use interesting and new words to expand what they tell you.*
- 2) *Ask your child's opinion on many topics. Encourage them to tell you why they think what*

they do.

- 3) *Teach your child to ask what words mean when they hear a word they don't understand. This simple act can increase their understanding of many words.*
- 4) *Play word games such as Boggle and Scrabble. Help them find new words.*

5) *Encourage them to read, read, read. Children will be exposed to thousands of new words in their free reading. Talk to them about what they are reading and ask what new words they discovered in their reading. Be excited about words!*