

# CERF/Title I Parent Connection

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“For one who reads, there is no limit to the number of lives that may be lived; for fiction, biography, and history offer an inexhaustible number of lives in many parts of the world, in all periods of time.”

Louis L'Amour

## March – Spring Ahead!

In March we transition from winter to spring. We move our clocks ahead for daylight savings time and we start to look forward to warmer weather and more time to be outside. Children may find it harder to concentrate on schoolwork as they begin spring and summer sports activities. But wait, we still have over two months of school left! Children need to continue the work of school and try to give it their full attention. You as parents can provide direction to keep them on track to:

- Keep track of homework assignments—use their daily planner
- Be responsible for completing homework on time
- Get a good night’s rest—children need 8 hours of sleep!
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Eat healthy—less sugar, more fruits and vegetables
- Exercise daily
- Read daily at least 10 minutes per grade level
- Drink plenty of water
- Help others
- Have a positive attitude!

### **Spring Break Ideas**

- Visit the library
- Read every day
- Write a letter to a grandparent
- Play outside every day
- Play a board game with friends
- Share a favorite book with a friend
- Help a neighbor
- Take a walk
- Help a family member
- Take a nap

## 5 Pillars of Reading Instruction—Comprehension

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 under-

stand their meaning

5. Comprehension—the ability to understand and explain what has been read

We have highlighted Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency and Vocabulary in the previous newsletters. This month’s newsletter provides information about Comprehension instruction. We hope this information will assist you as parents, as you help your child read.

Centennial schools use 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.

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**Read  
with  
your  
child  
every  
day!**

## Parents are Partners in Literacy

"We learn . . . .

10% of what we read

20% of what we hear

30% of what we see

50% of what we see  
and hear

70% of what we  
discuss

80% of what we  
experience

95% of what we teach  
others"

William Glasser

### Math and Literacy

Comprehension is key to success in math. If a student doesn't understand what they need to do to solve a word problem, it becomes very difficult to do so successfully.

You can use strategies similar to reading strategies to help your child comprehend their math word problems. 1) Ask them what they know about the problem first. 2) Then have them tell you what they think they need to do to solve the problem. 3) When they have

solved the problem, ask them if they have solved any other problem in the same or different way. 4) Help them to see that the way they solved one problem can be used to help them solve another problem. 5) Ask your child to teach you how to solve the next problem. By showing you how to do the problem, they will put their thoughts into words and establish a connection between their old and new learning. 6) Help your child name the math skills they used, such as division, addition or fractions.

### Preventing Summer Slump Parent Class

Summer Slump is the loss of skills that can happen over the summer. Come and learn some ways to help your child avoid summer slump. Mark your calendar now!

Blue Heron—Thurs., April 22  
4:30-5:30 pm

Centennial—May 6  
4:00-5:00pm  
Anoka County Library  
Centennial branch

Centerville—May (TBD)

Golden Lake—April 29  
6:00-7:00 pm

Rice Lake—May (TBD)  
Centennial Square

## Comprehension

Comprehension is the heart of reading. Being able to read the words on paper and make sense of their meaning and then connect what you read about with what you already know—that is real comprehension. Comprehension encompasses all aspects of reading as a child uses phonemic awareness and phonics skills to decode the words on paper; fluency aids a child to read the sentences smoothly; and understanding the vocabulary enables the

child to know what the words mean. All of these skills together provide the base for comprehension. When a child can take the knowledge they already have about a subject, add to and make connections to what they are reading; they build their comprehension skills.

Children learn strategies to help strengthen their comprehension skills. These strategies may include summarizing, questioning, using story maps, self-monitoring and the use of graphic organizers. Research has shown that using a mix

of these strategies has been most effective for improving comprehension. Children need to become comfortable deciding which is the best strategy to use for various kinds of books. Asking themselves questions about the paragraph may be a useful strategy for a science book while using a story map may be most helpful for a novel. When students can monitor their own understanding they build a comprehension skill that will further life long learning. The tips below are helpful for improving comprehension skills for all students.

## Spotlight on Fourth Grade: Ways You Can Improve Comprehension At Home

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

1. Before they begin an assignment, ask them to tell you, in their own words, what they already know about the subject.
2. Before they begin reading, ask them what questions they have about the topic. This will help them
3. After a paragraph or a page, ask them to summarize what they just read about in a sentence or two. This helps them find the main ideas.
4. When they finish reading, have your child tell you the answers for the questions they had.
5. Encourage them to make a connection to something else in their world that relates to what they just read about. Helping to make a connection to themselves, their family or friends, another story, another subject or something else they have seen will make the information important to them and makes it more likely they will understand, remember, and use the information.