

CERF/Title I Parent Connection

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“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”

~Maya Angelou

April – Assessments begin

April is nearly over and we ask ourselves—where has the year gone?! Children have begun taking a variety of assessments that give parents and teachers a chance to look at the progress children have made. Depending on your child’s age, they may be doing many or only a few assessments. Here’s a snapshot of some of these tests:

MCA-IIs

- Grades 3, 4, & 5
- Reading,
- Math
- Science
- State requirement

- Results mailed to parents in the summer

NWEA—MAP

- Grades 2, 3, 4, 5
- Reading
- Math
- District assessment
- Results included with final report cards

AIMSWEB Benchmark

- Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Reading
- District assessment
- Results included with final report cards

Classroom Assessments—Chapter tests, Unit tests, Individual tests

- Grades K-5
- All Subjects
- Classroom teacher decision
- Results used to determine further instruction, cumulative learning, or other classroom concerns

5 Pillars of Reading Instruction—So What?

Reading is a complex process. Readers rely on many skills to make sense of print. When parents and teachers are aware of these parts of the reading puzzle, they are better able to help children who are struggling with reading skills. The 5 pillars of reading 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—the ability to understand and explain what has been read

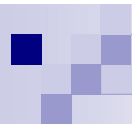
We hope that understanding these aspects of reading will help you as parents as you help your child read.

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.

Read with your child every day!



Parents are Partners in Literacy

*“Today a Reader,
Tomorrow
a Leader”*

~Margaret Fuller

Math and Literacy

Organizing information into meaningful groups helps children retain information. Graphic Organizers can be helpful in math as well. Have you seen your child bring home Everyday Math papers using “What’s My Rule?”, Change Diagram, Comparison Diagrams, Frequency Tables, Line Graphs?” These Graphic Organizers help provide a way to organize the math information they are working with.

Children may also create their own forms of graphic

organizers that make sense to them. Encourage your child to explain the organizer they are using in a math problem and how this helps them to understand and do their math work. These organizers can help them answer the questions, “What am I looking for? How can I find it?” “How can I use it?”

Help your child see where you might use a graphic organizer in your daily life to balance your check book, organize materials for a project or make a comparison of two items.

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!

Centennial—May 6

4:00-5:00pm

Anoka County Library

Centennial branch

Centerville—May 3

6:00-6:30 pm

Media Center

Golden Lake—April 29

6:00-7:00 pm

Centennial Square

Rice Lake—May 10

6:30-7:30

Room B119-120

Graphic Organizers—What are they?

Teachers often talk about Graphic Organizers. Parents may ask, “Just what is a Graphic Organizer?” Graphic Organizers are just what the name implies. Graphic means something that is shown in writing or pictures. Organizers put the writing or pictures into an organized form. Graphic Organizers have been shown to be an effective way of helping children understand what they read. Think of it as taking the various pieces of

information and putting them together in a meaningful way. A Story Map is a graphic organizer that is often used to organize the important information about a story—the characters, setting, problem, events, solution. A Flow Chart might simply list the events of the story in the order they occur.

A Table might be used to list key information relating to topic areas—for example, listing habitat, predators and prey for several animals. Comparing and contrasting

two animals might be organized on a Venn Diagram consisting of intersecting circles where information can be noted.

Graphic Organizers help children and adults to remember information by collecting and organizing it in a meaningful and manageable way. Watch for the various graphic organizers that your children may bring home. Graphic Organizers can be used in all subject areas and are an excellent study tool for children to use. Encourage your child to explain what they used their Graphic Organizers for.

Spotlight on Fifth Grade: Putting it all together

Fifth graders are feeling like they are pretty big stuff at this point in the year. Parents can help them to use all the reading skills and strategies they have learned over the past six years. Keep them reading by:

1. *Talk to them about the books they are reading. Ask them to tell you what they like about the book and why.*

2. *Find out what interests your child and help them find books, magazines and articles that relate to their interests.*

3. *Make reading fun—read joke books together, listen to a book on tape, play word games, and follow a recipe to make something.*

4. *Read with a purpose—gather in-*

build a model or add to a collection, etc.

5. *Model reading for them. Let your child see you read for pleasure as well.*

Let your attitude model the importance of reading for them. Reading is something they will need to do in whatever path they choose in life.