



Who Knew?,
New News!

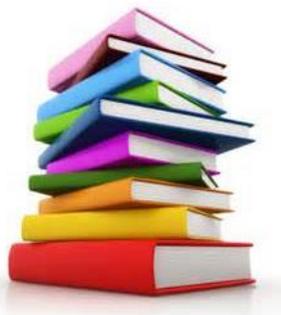


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October Newsletter

Reading Fun Day Trip

All students who reach their reading counts goal will be going to Sam A. Baker Park for the reading trip on Friday, October 16. Students will have opportunities to go on a scavenger hunt, hike, pet snakes and other animals, play outdoor games, and a picnic. Please encourage your child to read and reach their reading counts goal so they can go on this fun filled day.



Citizenship Assembly

For the month of October the students will be working on responsibility. Fifth grade will be presenting at the assembly this month. The assembly will take place Friday, October 30th at 12:45 p.m. Please come out and support the children if you can.

Ready, Set, Read! Building Reading Stamina

by Mrs. Karen Choate

Having stamina for something means being able to stick with something for periods of time. This stamina, or endurance, builds strength. Stamina can apply to lots of different areas, such as exercise or painting. It can also apply to reading.

Teachers often think about a student's reading stamina. Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long-ish periods of time without being distracted or without distracting others. Reading stamina is something that parents can help students develop. Here's how:

1. Vary the way the reading is done. Parents can think about this in terms of having their child "read to himself, read to someone, and listen to reading." Some combination of the three should make up the reading time, especially for new or struggling readers.
2. Choose "just right" books. If your child is at a stage of being able to read alone, help him choose books that he is able to read independently. This means he should be able to decode almost every word in the book correctly. In this situation, avoid using books that are too difficult to read alone. If your child will be reading with you, choose books that are lively and engaging.
3. Set reasonable goals. Most toddlers and preschoolers find it difficult to sit for long periods of time, even with the most engaging book! When starting out, limit book time to just a few minutes and work up from there. For elementary aged readers, consider starting with 10-15 minutes of reading time, and work up from there. Add a few minutes to your reading time every week or so.
4. Celebrate progress. Without getting too caught up on the number of minutes spent reading, celebrate the time that is spent reading. Share your favorite parts of books read, plan the next visit to the library, and share progress with other family members.

Spending longer periods of time reading means fewer interruptions and more time reading what you love. As your child moves into higher grades, having reading stamina will help your child navigate the longer texts and assignments. Using these tips can help develop more stamina in your reader.

Math Tips for Parents

www.thelearningcommunity.us

Math is no mystery

Is that 16oz. can of tomatoes a better bargain than the 12oz. can? You make dozens of calculations in your daily life, from balancing a checkbook to figuring how long it will take to drive to a cross-town soccer game. That's math at work. As a parent, you can help your child be a whiz at math, even if it wasn't your best subject. Here's how:

Be positive about math. Express confidence in your child's ability to do math. Don't stress either your own fear of math or how difficult math is or how much you admire anyone who can do math.

Show your child math at work in their world. Get your children used to math by thinking out loud when making calculations. Then, let your children work out some real-life puzzles themselves. For example:

- Let them measure when you bake.
- Ask them to figure out how long of a hose you need to reach from the faucet on the side of the house to the garden.
- Let your child figure out how many miles you'll be driving on your next trip by using the information on a map.
- Sort silverware by knives, forks, and spoons. Sort cards by suit or numbers.

Make math a game

Math games are fun and inexpensive. They are a wonderful way to get your kids to enjoy working with numbers, as well as improve their number skills.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Many games that we take for granted are excellent math lessons. "Go Fish" teaches counting and grouping in sets. Games that use play money teach how to make change. Board games that use dice teach addition and counting. Backgammon teaches addition, subtraction, and strategy.
- Beans, stones, or marbles can be used to play number games. Let your child develop his or her own games by sorting beans into different sizes or types, setting up the rules for a counting game, or using different types of pasta to make a picture.
- Give your children a geometry lesson by letting them create a collage of circles, squares, and triangles. Challenge them to come up with as many different shapes as they can using only triangles.
- Play store with the items in your cupboard.
- A pan of water and some jars or cups of different sizes will amuse a child for hours while teaching capacity and volume.

Beyond 1, 2, 3, 4...

Encourage creative problem-solving. Problem-solving is the basis of good mathematical thinking, and the problems don't have to involve numbers.

- "How many different ways are there to walk to school?"
- "What's another way to arrange the furniture in this room?"
- "How many different ways can I measure flour to get half a cup?"

Try to come up with more than one solution for everyday problems.

Choose gifts that develop problem-solving skills.

Blocks, building sets, geometric tile sets, puzzles, board games, weather stations, maps, puzzle books, calculators, strategy games, scales, and origami are just a few of the gifts that will give your child pleasure and knowledge at the same time.

Get involved at school

Talk to teachers. Teachers have materials that you can copy and ideas that you can use at home. They also have access to books, kits, and professional organizations that can enlarge both your own at-home math lessons and the math program at your school.

Volunteer in your child's class. By being in the classroom during math, you can see how concepts are taught and follow through with the lessons at home. This has two advantages. First, it reinforces the classroom lessons. Secondly, you are more at ease with math and with the concepts your child is learning.

Citizenship Assembly Character Traits

November—Fairness, 2nd Grade

December and January—Respect, 3rd Grade

February—Caring, Kindergarten

March—Honesty, 4th Grade

April—All Traits, 6th Grade

October 16—Reading Fun Day Trip

October 22—No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 23—No School

October 26—No School

October 30—Fall Festival

October 30—Citizenship Assembly at 12:45 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Labels Information

Every time a class turns in a thousand labels they earn a free recess. At the end of the year, the class that has turned in the most labels will receive a prize. Here are the results as of September 22:

Kindergarten—259

1st Grade—475

2nd Grade—173

3rd Grade—447

4th Grade—382

5th Grade—49

6th Grade—29

Reminders to Parents

- All lunch money is due at the beginning of the week.
- If lunches exceed the \$10 limit, an alternate lunch will be served.