

KERSHAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

February 9, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **February 2nd**
Groundhog's Day
- **February 14th**
Valentine's Day
- **February 16th**
President's Day (No School)
- **February 18th**
5th Grade Patriotic Program at 7:00 p.m.
- **February 26th**
4th Grade NAEP Assessment

The seeds for success in the classroom are sown at home. *Encouraging children to read at home is one of the most powerful ways that parents can support students' learning.* Just 20-30 minutes of reading at home per day can make a big difference in students' reading fluency and comprehension. Prioritize reading with these tips:

Always have books on hand. Keep a book in your bag or your car's glove compartment so your child can read in the car, or while waiting in line at the grocery store. Make regular trips to the library, and keep an eye out for books at bargain sales or garage sales. For birthdays or holidays, give your child new reading material.

Keep it up. Find ways to encourage your child to pick up new reading material to read once one book is finished. For instance, introduce him/her to a series or ask your librarian for books by the same author. Draft a "to-read list" that your child can check off. Consider subscribing your child to a magazine for kids.

Focus on their interests. Encourage your child to check out books from the library that feature characters or topics he/she is interested in. Whether it's NASCAR or NASA, the topic doesn't matter (as long as it's age-appropriate), as long as your child is reading.

Make it a routine. Consider how to make reading habitual. Your family could have a weekly read-aloud session, or you and your child could read each night before bed.

Be a patient listener. No matter how slowly your young learner reads, avoid finishing sentences for your child. Gently correct mistakes, sound out words together, and let your child know you're proud of them.

Cut the distractions. During reading time, turn off the T.V. or put away electronic devices. Make sure that you also follow this rule.

Search for fun. Show your child the weekly events calendar in the newspaper or introduce them to the sports page. Find something in the newspaper and/or magazine that your child is motivated to read and encourage them to use it to find other useful information (e.g. weather, show times, comics).

Ask questions. Ask your child about what he/she is reading in school or what you are reading together. Try open-ended questions such as, "Why do you think the character did that?", "What would you do if you were in that situation?", or "What do you think will happen next?"

Look online. Encourage (under your supervision) your child to take advantage of online reading opportunities by exploring new interests. The internet is a wonderful resource and can help turn your child into a better reader.

Read beyond books. Invite your child to read menus, greeting cards, movie listings, newspaper comic strips, cereal boxes, or directions to a destination.

We hope to get the most out of our young students' minds. We love to see our students excited about reading books! I hope you will try some of these ideas to get or to keep your child reading throughout the day, every day.

Thanks,

Mr. Williams, Principal