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LITERACY NEWSLETTER

“READING SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO CHILDREN AS A CHORE, A DUTY. IT SHOULD BE OFFERED AS A GIFT.” *KATE DICAMILLO*

Capitalize on Your Child’s Interests

A majority of students don’t love nonfiction reading, yet nonfiction reading is essential as children get older. Nonfiction reading isn’t just a reading skill to be assessed at the end of a unit or on an end of year test. It is a life skill. Nonfiction reading is how children learn new things and explore the world around them. It’s how adults learn new things and explore the world around them, too!

So how do we get our children interested in nonfiction reading? Start with their interests – let them tell you what they are loving right now and use that as the starting point for nonfiction reading. A Google Search or Alexa can get you started, however children need help figuring out what information is accurate and what isn’t. Support them as they look through the many sites that populate when you do a Google search. What makes a site reputable? How do we determine what information is accurate?

Nonfiction reading can be a starting point for many fun projects. Want to plan a trip to another state or country? Nonfiction reading can help you in your planning. Read hotel reviews, look at maps, and currency exchange rates. Want to try out a new recipe now that you have a lot of time at home? Nonfiction reading includes cookbooks and recipes. Bored at home? Want to learn a new craft, do a STEM project, or play a board game? Nonfiction reading includes reading directions.

Go, get your nonfiction reading on!



Finding the New Normal

These are different times we are living in. Our children no longer go off to school to learn about reading, write, math, social studies, and science. They are not playing on the playground with their friends or participating in extracurricular activities. Instead, teachers prepare virtual lessons for your child and you are responsible for supporting them as they review familiar concepts and learn new things. They chat with their friends with Google Hangouts or Messenger and spend an unbelievable amount of time inside. With an unknown amount of time ahead of us, how are we going to make this work?

Together we can do this. Despite the isolation, you are not alone in this process. Your child’s teacher is most likely home with their child(ren) and are experiencing the same feelings. Reach out to the school and the teachers to ask questions and share concerns. Communication is key to making progress and moving forward during this time. These are uncharted waters and we are all learning as we go.

A few tips from those that homeschool all the time may help us on our journey. First, most children do their best when a predictable routine is in place. We may not have to be anywhere by a certain time but we should be sure to get up,

get dressed, and have breakfast before the school day begins. Second, after breakfast is a good time to focus on core subjects like math and language arts. Studies show that students are able to sustain attention longer first thing in the morning. Third, build in time for snack and a mental break. Websites like GoNoodle are great for this and students love them, too. Even my 6th grader can be coaxed into a GoNoodle break. Finally, don’t be afraid to call it quits if things get too hard or frustrating. No math lesson or reading assignment is worth stressing over at this time. You can always come back to it at another time and you can let your child’s teacher know that something just wasn’t working. Together, you can find a solution to the challenge.

We are all in this boat together and if we paddle in the same direction we will get to our destination – eventually. Keep on reading, keep on paddling, and keep on communicating!

On the Calendar

Women’s History Month	March
National Poetry Month	April
D.E.A.R Day	April 12
International Day of Reading	April 23
El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day)	April 30

SPOTLIGHT ON DIGITAL READING



Check out these digital resources for reading with your child! Most of these resources are available for free. Click on the image for the hyperlink.