CRAFTON CORNER

Want to spend time with your youngster, build his/her reading skills, and help him/her learn to love books? You can do all of that when you read aloud. Here are suggestions:

Read Regularly—Try to read to your child everyday for 10-15 minutes. This could be a calming bedtime routine or during a sibling’s sports practice.

Take Turns Choosing Books—Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety, such as non-fiction or poetry.

Let Her Participate—Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she knows. Go slowly so she has time to understand the stories and look at the illustrations. The read-aloud time provides an active role.

Be Playful—You can use different voices for different characters or substitute your youngster’s name for the main character.

Remember, you do not have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it’s you.

A READING CHALLENGE

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He’ll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader.

◊ Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in China, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online.

◊ Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

◊ Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.
What do we mean by Digital Learning?

Digital learning is any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student’s learning experience. It emphasizes high-quality instruction and provides access to challenging content, feedback through formative assessment, opportunities for learning anytime and anywhere, and individualized instruction to ensure all students reach their full potential to succeed in college and a career.

Why Celebrate Digital Learning Day?

With so many new types of digital devices, educational software and mobile apps continuously developed, it’s hard to keep up with the latest and greatest advancements in educational technology. In some classrooms and out-of-school programs across the country, educators are doing some pretty amazing things with technology. Yet, these pockets of innovation are confined to a small number of schools and communities. Digital Learning Day was started as a way to actively spread innovative practices and ensure that all youth have access to high-quality digital learning opportunities no matter where they live.

Digital Learning Day Activities

Kindergarten participated in Scratch Jr. and Code.org with their fourth grade buddies.

First Grade students used a food group Kahoot to celebrate their food groups unit.

Second Grade utilized Grammar Kahoot to reinforce present-tense verbs and irregular nouns. They also used Scratch Jr. to explore/develop coding skills.

Third Grade extended their lessons with Google Slideshow and Google Classroom. They also used eSpark, Reflex, Storyline Online, and Legends of Learning.

Fourth Grade worked with their kindergarten buddies in Tagxedos and coding. The students also used Scratch and Tynker to participate on activities on iPads.

Fifth Grade reinforced their skills by having students work on PowerPoint projects, Edmentum, Kahoot, and Plickers.

Sixth Grade students discussed how power is divided in the United States Government by participating in a TedEd lesson.

PTA NEWS

March 1-29th Penny Wars
March 1st—Family Reading Night and Book Sale
March 5th—PTA Meeting at 7 PM in the Crafton Elementary Library
March 8th—End of Sarris Candy Sale
March 29th—Mix and Match Day
READ ACROSS AMERICA

Read Across America Week was the week of February 25th and this year’s theme is “Readers are Leaders.” We had many exciting things planned for our students. We began the week with spirit days and encouraging everyone to bring reading to life. There were also many guests planned for our students.

Kindergarten and First Grade—They were visited by storyteller Kim Adley, the Queen of Hearts. She is always a favorite and gets the students excited to read. Officer Tully read a law enforcement officer themed book to kindergarten and first grade to help them understand the role of police officers in the community.

All Reading Support Students—Students were visited by Animal Friends’ Reading With Rover program. Certified therapy pets and their handlers read a book that was been selected by a humane education coordinator. The books adhere to Animal Friends’ mission and encourage a healthy respect for companion animals while encouraging a love of reading.

Second and Third Grade—Received a special visit from Mrs. Courtney Bonnet and learned about the magical art of Japanese Kamishibai storytelling.

Third Grade—Mr. Jim Schriver shared his favorite Dr. Seuss books and an award winning title, The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore written by William Joyce.

Kindergarten through Sixth Grade—Had the opportunity to meet local author, Dede Rittman. Dede is the author of Grady Gets Glasses, Grady is a rabbit – with glasses – who thinks that wearing glasses makes a person (or a rabbit) extra-special.

Spirit Days:
Monday, February 25th—Be a Character Day
Tuesday, February 26th—Wear Your Words Day (Wear a t-shirt with a message!)
Wednesday, February 27th—Wacky Wednesday (Mismatched and inside-out day)
Thursday, February 28th—Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat Day (Students and staff should wear their favorite hat and/or Dr. Seuss gear)
Friday, March 1st—“Fox in Socks”, Crazy Socks Day

Reading Challenges that will conclude this week: Kindergarten through second grade: “Amazing Authors A to Z” and “RAA Reading Challenge!” for students in grades three through six. All students were encouraged to participate in the contests. Top readers was entered in raffles to win prizes.
Drop off

Please remember that Drop Off time in the morning is a busy time. There are many cars and buses that are moving along. If your child is dropped off on the opposite side of the street, please have him/her cross at the corner with the crossing guard. If you are dropping your child off in the morning, please be mindful of all of the other parents that are waiting patiently behind you. Be respectful and keep the line moving so all of the buses and cars receive the same type of courtesy.

Drop off begins at 8:00 am. Students should not arrive at school before this time. There is no adult supervision until 8:00 am.

Dismissal Time

Remember that dismissal time is also a busy time for the school. Parking is difficult for all families, but we must be safe for all of our students. Please do not park in the alley. This disrupts the flow and traffic that is happening at dismissal time. Do not block cars. Everyone has a busy schedule and must be able to leave when ready.

Be mindful and friendly to our neighbors. Please do not park in their driveways or blocks their cars or yards.

Please Remember

When communicating with your child’s teacher via email, please be sure to copy the school secretary on correspondence that involves any of the following:

* Attendance
* Tardiness
* Absence excuses
* Dismissal changes**
COUNTDOWN TO THE PSSA

With a few weeks before the PSSA, our teachers are looking for creative and effective ways to maximize the remaining instructional time to provide our students with the necessary tools that are needed to become Proficient or Advanced in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. It is imperative that all students are in school during these assessments and report on time, as modifications to daily schedules will occur in order to create a conducive testing environment for all students. The testing calendar is listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>April 15-17, 2019</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>April 29-30, 2019</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>May 1-2, 2019</td>
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Parent Tips to Help Prepare Your Student for Standardized Testing

What your student is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests. During the weeks leading up to the test, begin to talk with your child about the importance of giving their best effort during testing. The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready to give the test his or her all.

The Night Before:

◊ Help you child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
◊ Help children resolve immediate arguments before going to bed.
◊ Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
◊ Mention the test to show you’re interested, but don’t dwell on it.
◊ Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The Morning of the Test:

◊ Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
◊ Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
◊ Have your child dress in something comfortable.
◊ Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard, and that they are designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. It is important to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.

After the Test:

◊ Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, making sure you acknowledge the effort such a task requires.
◊ Discuss what was easy and what was difficult; discuss what your child learned from the test.
Kindergarten
Michaela Champion
Jackson Salicce

First Grade
Jasmine Robinson
Penelope Bittner

Second Grade
Logan Orsi
Kevin McCarthy

Third Grade
Mitchell Glidden
Colleen LaRiviere
Aaron Heffner

Fourth Grade
Diana Thomas
Austin Gamble

Fifth Grade
Owen Thompson
Sarah Loney
Kaden Lillis
Christian Kelton

Sixth Grade
Quinland Delrosario
Andrea Johnston
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issac Anker</th>
<th>Mya Austin</th>
<th>Richard Bernhardy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zosia Branch</td>
<td>Christian Burcham</td>
<td>Shayden Butti</td>
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<td>Maura Egenlauf</td>
<td>Troy Foster</td>
<td>Elisabetta Frank</td>
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<td>Mitchell Glidden</td>
<td>Rose Highfield</td>
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<td>Sarah Loney</td>
<td>Gianna Medici</td>
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<td>Aya Paolino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron Seitz</td>
<td>Kimberly Sheets</td>
<td>Braxton Sherrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Slogick</td>
<td>A’Layah Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harper Ulakovic</td>
<td>Dimitri Valchef</td>
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<td>Olivia Wagner</td>
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