

January 11, 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all who attended the GPFA meeting on Wednesday. The presentations by our special area teachers, Mr. Malone, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Beja, and Ms. Urso were fascinating and gave parents a glimpse into the important and complex skills children learn in physical education, art, music, and library. These areas of study beyond the regular classroom enhance our students' vocabulary, knowledge base, facility with technology, health and wellness---all serving to make them well-rounded citizens.

Thank you to the parents who attended today's Parent Workshop on reading! We explored ways that reading aloud to children can help them develop strong literacy skills that will foster their success in school. Here are some of the ideas we discussed:

*When reading is enjoyable, children develop positive attitudes and become lifelong readers.

*Reading to your child enhances his/her comprehension skills, and builds vocabulary and background knowledge. Ask your librarian for interesting and fun titles to read aloud, including poetry, nonfiction, and joke and riddle books (for reluctant readers/listeners).

*Just a few minutes a day makes a big difference! Try reading at different times during the day---at breakfast, in waiting rooms, while your child is building with blocks, before bed.

*When adults read aloud to children, they model important reading behaviors. As you are reading, **stop and think aloud:**

- Tell your child what you picture in your mind from what the author has written.
- Share how the words make you feel or think.
- Wonder or predict what will happen next.
- Infer what kind of person the character is, based upon his/her actions.
- Notice new words and use them at other times with your child. (e.g. "*You look weary today!*")
- Tell your child when something doesn't make sense and show him/her what you do to "fix-up" your understanding. (reread a part, read it slowly, etc.)

These are all examples of the reading comprehension strategies used by proficient readers.

Most importantly, reading to your child is one way to spend quality time together---connecting, talking, and laughing. Enjoy every minute!

Have a wonderful weekend---stay warm!

Regards,

Lynn Herschlein