



Front Page News

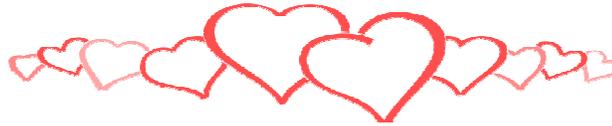
Title I Schools Newsletter



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Jan. 2017 / Feb. 2017
Volume 4, Issue 4

Setting the Stage for a New Year of Learning Success

Did you know that children whose parents are involved in their education tend to have better grades, a positive attitude toward school, and more appropriate school behavior? *Parents make a difference!* Here are a few tips to help you in supporting your child's continued academic success:

1). Stay Involved -

- Communicate with your child's teacher regularly.
- Participate in school events, parent workshops, meetings and parent-teacher conferences when possible.

2). Check In -

- Talk with your child about school each day. Ask about what he is learning in class.
- Help your child organize her backpack and frequently check for assignments, school notes, graded work, etc.

3). Make Home a Good Place for Learning -

- Praise and encourage your child often. Be a role model for the behaviors you expect.
- Keep a quiet homework/study area and be available to help, if needed.
- And last but not least, read together each day.

Read to Succeed: What is Fluency and why is it important?

If someone is fluent in speaking another language or in playing an instrument, there's a smooth, graceful and easy quality to it. The same is true with reading skills. Reading fluency is a child's ability to read a book or other text



correctly and with expression.

A fluent reader doesn't have to stop and "decode" each word. Rather, most of the words can be read automatically. This means the reader can focus his attention on what the story or text means. For that reason, fluency is critically important – it is the bridge between decoding words and understanding what has been read. For more information and activities you can do at home to help your student develop reading fluency, visit

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/fluency-matters>.

What's "App"ening?

Sushi Monster by Scholastic is a **FREE** app to practice, reinforce, and strengthen reasoning strategies for whole number addition and multiplication by helping monsters make a target sum or product. Earn points with each correct answer as the target skills increase with each new level. Available in 15 different languages. Requires iOS 5.11 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch.



5 Ways Parents Can Support STEM Learning

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education is becoming more and more important in today's tech-savvy world. How can you help encourage your child to be a STEM thinker? Fortunately, you don't have to be an engineer, doctor, or scientist to support your child's exploration of STEM learning. Check out these five simple tips to get started.



1). Encourage Curiosity and Questions -

Rather than give an answer to a problem or solution, encourage your child to research information and/or come up with possible solutions for a problem.

2). Watch Educational Programming - Television programming related to STEM fields cover a variety of topics. The History Channel's *Modern Marvels*, PBS' *NOVA*, and the Discovery Channel's *Planet Earth* are just a few that offer entertainment with a STEM mindset.

3). Visit the Museum - The SC State Museum offers a diverse group of STEM focused exhibits for children to get up close and hands on. Check their website for a calendar of events, including monthly dollar days. <http://scmuseum.org/calendar/>

4). DO STEM Together - Be enthusiastic about ideas and activities you can explore at home. Set up a place for experimenting and building and provide inexpensive materials such as paper cups, craft sticks, glue, etc. Ask, "What would happen if...?" questions that promote thinking and problem-solving.

5). Make Career Connections - Talk with your child about career pathways related to STEM. If you are in a STEM field yourself, make connections to how you use Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math in your job.

Fun Facts

Groundhog day is a popular observance in many parts of the United States. The first celebration took place on February 2, 1887 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. For more fun groundhog facts and activities, visit <http://www.groundhog.org/>.



Mark Your Calendar...

- > Jan. 5 - Students Return to School
- > Jan. 16 - Holiday
- > Feb. 1 - Collaborative Planning Day (Elementary Schools Dismiss at 11:40 a.m.)
- > Feb. 17 - No School for Students (Teacher Workday/Professional Development)