

Building Readers for Life

Downingtown Area School District K-5 Literacy Newsletter

Hello, Downingtown Families!

We are now in the third trimester of the 2016-2017 school year. We hope you continue to find it useful to receive these assessment updates, reading strategies, and resources to build successful readers and foster positive home and school connections.

April is National Poetry Month

Celebrate at home with these hands-on activities that celebrate poetry.

Book Spine Poetry

Grab a stack of books from your own shelf or the public library. Have the kids read through the titles. Encourage them to stack a few books on top of each other. Have them play around with the titles to create a short poem; words that create an image, feeling or scene.

Some kids may take this project and run with it. Others may need a bit of encouragement to get started. For kids who need a little nudge, it might help them to approach this activity as a puzzle. Can they stack titles that build a sentence? How about a phrase? How about just two books that sound funny together? from www.pbs.org



Edition 3, March 2017

Literacy Assessment Updates:

AIMS Web

May 1st – May 15th

Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark
Assessment System

May 3rd – May 31st

Looking Ahead:

PSSA Testing ELA

April 3rd – April 7th

PSSA Testing Math

April 24th – April 28th

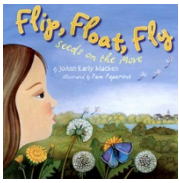
PSSA Testing Science
(4th grade)

May 1st – May 5th





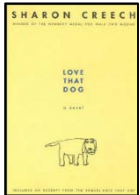
Reading Recommendations



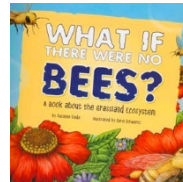
Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move, by
JoAnn Early Macken



When Spring Comes, by Kevin Henkes



Love That Dog, by Sharon Creech



What If There Were No Bees? By Suzanne
Slade

Word Wizards!

Search for letters and words on magazine pages! Grab an old magazine and try this activity with your child:

1. Write a few letters of the alphabet at the top of some magazine pages.
2. Ask your child to circle the words that begin with the letters you wrote.
3. Count to see which letter started the most words. Read the circled words together and discuss their meanings.
4. Have your child create sentences with some of the words. Ask her to read the words back to you and review their meanings.

Creating analogies is helpful and fun!

For example, "finger is to hand as toe is to ____" (foot).

Analogies are great for building reading, thinking and vocabulary skills, too.

Try naming a word with your child (such as big), and then create an analogy to go with it. "Big is to small as cold is to ____ (hot)."

The Habits of Mind are an identified set of problem solving, life related skills, necessary to help students meet with success both in school and out of school. The understanding and application of these Habits of Mind serve to provide the individual with skills to work through real life experiences that prepare students to respond to situations using awareness, thought, and intentional strategies in order to gain a positive outcome.

10 What Questions to Develop a Growth Mindset in Children

1. What did you do today that made you think hard?
2. What happened today that made you keep going?
3. What can you learn from this?
4. What mistake did you make that taught you something?
5. What did you try hard at today?
6. What strategy are you going to try now?
7. What will you do to challenge yourself today?
8. What will you do to improve your work?
9. What will you do to improve your talent?
10. What will you do to solve this problem?

Give it your all
Redo if necessary
Ignore giving up
Take time to do it right

ReSource Links

Read Write Think: <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/>

PBS Parents: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-activities/>