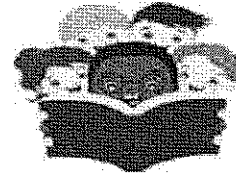


Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

Florida is already building excitement for *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! (CLW)* which will be held January 26-30, 2015. The theme "Reading Accelerates Success" encourages students to connect literacy with all kinds of careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This is a great opportunity to encourage our students to keep reading and improving their skills. We know that if Florida's students are going to shoot for the moon and achieve great success, they must have the literacy skills that 21st century careers demand.

Below are some Literacy Tips for Parents to help their children succeed:

1. Model good reading habits by reading to or alongside your child; parents set the stage for children to become better readers.
2. Encourage your child to read new and challenging books, articles and magazines.
3. Establish a daily reading routine.
4. Encourage reading, writing and discussions among family members.
5. Be positive when talking with your child about their reading ability and skills.
6. The love of reading begins at home. Create a "home library" for your family to access.
7. Limit TV viewing by controlling the amount of time spent watching television.
8. Play word games with your child.
9. Expose children to different kinds of books, such as novels, biographies and informational content, like books about our universe or various species.
10. Visit your local public library and help your child get a library card of their very own.
11. Take books in the car to read, rather than watching a DVD.
12. Create a "reading nook" in your home where your child can read.
13. Comment on new words your child hears on the radio or TV.
14. Play rhyming games during a car trip.
15. Select a "word of the day" to add to your child's growing vocabulary.
16. Write out opposite words on pieces of paper and have your child match them together.
17. Make up a story by having each family member add a sentence.
18. Make additional reading time or an extra bedtime story a reward for good behavior.
19. Encourage your child to write a book about their day.
20. Help your child read the labels on different bottles and containers, including the shampoo and conditioner bottles at bath time.
21. Play the "I Spy" game, looking for uppercase and lowercase letters.
22. While playing outside, encourage your child to create their name out of sticks, stones and other materials.
23. Help your child label artwork with their name and age.
24. Before a family dinner, encourage your child to create place settings with first and last names.
25. Clifford The Big Red Dog says "Read Every Day, Lead a Better Life."



For more information on this upcoming event, visit the Florida Dept. of Education's website at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/celebrate-literacy-week>.

Excerpts from fldoe.org

Visit Your Title I Neighborhood Resource Centers

Neighborhood Resource Center - North
7900 N.W. 27th Avenue, Suite F9
(Northside Shopping Centre, 130 South Ct.)

Neighborhood Resource Center - South
5555 S.W. 93rd Avenue, Portable #3
(FDLRS South Site)

Neighborhood Resource Center - Gratigny
733 East 57th Street
(M-DCPS North Region Center)

Strep Throat And Your Child

Strep Throat is a bacterial throat infection that can make your throat feel sore and scratchy. Anybody can get strep throat, but it's most common in school-age kids and teens. These infections occur most often during the school year when big groups of kids and teens are in close quarters.

Not all sore throats are strep throats. Most episodes of sore throat are caused by viruses and usually clear up on their own without medical treatment. However, a child with strep throat will start to develop other symptoms within about three days, such as fever, stomach pain, swollen tonsils, red and white patches in the throat, headache, tender glands in the neck, loss of appetite and nausea, rash, and general discomfort. If your child has a sore throat and other strep throat symptoms, call your doctor.

It is imperative to teach kids the importance of hand washing - good hygiene can lessen their chances of getting contagious diseases like strep throat. To prevent your sick child from spreading strep throat to others in your home, keep his or her eating utensils, dishes and drinking glasses separate and wash them in hot, soapy water after each use. Make sure your child covers all sneezes or coughs to prevent passing infectious droplets to others.

Help your child feel comfortable while battling strep throat and talk to your doctor about when he or she can return to school and normal activities.

Talking To Your Pharmacist



If your child is sick, you'll probably have many questions to ask your doctor. But have you made a list of questions and concerns to share with your pharmacist? Here are some tips shared by pharmacists:

- * Remember to keep prescription and nonprescription medications out of the reach of children.
- * Never repackage medications; keep them in their original childproof containers so that you'll have the expiration date and instructions on hand.
- * Toss medications when they have expired (check the prescription label for the expiration date) or the doctor has told you that your child should stop taking them.
- * When giving liquid medicine, it's best to use a medication syringe (instead of a household spoon) to ensure that your child will get the exact amount prescribed. You can buy a medication syringe at your pharmacy.

Excerpts from kidshealth.org

Florida Standards Assessments (FSA)

The Florida Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts were approved by the Florida State Board of Education in February 2014, and are being fully implemented in grades K-12 during the 2014-2015 school year.

The following Florida Standards Assessments will be administered for the first time in Spring 2015:

- * Grades 3-11 English Language Arts (Writing component in grades 4-11)
- * Grades 3-8 Mathematics
- * Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment
- * Geometry End-of-Course Assessment
- * Algebra 2 End-of-Course Assessment

Parents can promote student success by staying involved in their child's education, offering positive support and feedback and encouraging them to relax and do their very best. By staying connected with their child's school and teachers and taking advantage of online resources, such as the M-DCPS Parent Portal and school websites, parents can stay informed and be best equipped to meet the needs of their children at home.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of the information and resources available on the M-DCPS Parent Portal (www.dadeschools.net/parents), the FSA Portal (www.FSAssessments.org) and the FDOE website (www.fldoe.org). New resources will be available throughout the year so parents and students should check these websites regularly for updates.

Excerpts from fsassessments.org

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