



# Parent Resource Newsletter

Monthly tip for parents

## A Fresh Look at Your Home Library

Having interesting things to read at home is a great way to keep kids motivated and the New Year is a great time to take a fresh look at your home library. Some simple changes on your part can help you create an amazing home library, and help your child develop an early love of reading!



Below are a few questions to ask yourself about your home library. You can create an amazing home library and help your young reader start this New Year on the right reading foot!

### Does your home library offer...?

1. A variety of books? Kids love to read all sorts of materials, including books, magazines, newspapers, and poems. Consider including travel brochures, street maps, and programs from school plays.
2. Books written at a variety of reading levels? It's important to have some books that are easy for your child to read, but it's also good to have some that can be read most successfully with an adult. This balance enables your child to feel confident with some books, and grow as a reader with others.
3. Some method of organization? Sometimes grouping books by topic or series helps your child find other books they might like to read. Grouping books using book baskets also help kids find a book more easily than a crowded shelf.
4. Lots of nonfiction material? Even the youngest readers love to read about real places and things. These materials often include photographs, maps and charts full of interesting information.
5. Lots of choice? Find creative ways to add books to your library. Playgroup book swaps, yard sales, and used book stores all offer affordable ways to add to your collection.

Take the time this New Year to consider your home library. Your reader will be glad you did!

**Resource:** [www.ReadingRockets.com](http://www.ReadingRockets.com); January 2017 article

**Quote:** *Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.* - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

### Helping Your Child Succeed in School

### Resolve to Get Organized in 2017

Most kids generate a little chaos and disorganization. Yours might flit from one thing to the next — forgetting books at school, leaving towels on the floor, and failing to finish projects once started. You'd like them to be more organized and to stay focused on tasks, such as homework. Is it possible?

Yes! Organization is a skill learned over time. With help and some practice, kids can develop an effective approach to getting stuff done. And you're the perfect person to teach your child, even if you don't feel all that organized yourself!

### Easy as 1-2-3

For kids, all tasks can be broken down into a 1-2-3 process.

1. **Getting organized** means a kid gets where he or she needs to be and gathers the supplies needed to complete the task.
2. **Staying focused** means sticking with the task and learning to say "no" to distractions.
3. **Getting it done** means finishing up, checking your work, and putting on the finishing touches, like remembering to put a homework paper in the right folder and putting the folder inside the backpack so it's ready for the next day.

Not only is it practical to teach these skills, but knowing how to get stuff done will help your child feel more competent and effective. Kids feel self-confident and proud when they're able to accomplish their tasks and responsibilities. They're also sure to be pleased when they find they have some extra free time to do what they'd like to do.

**Resource:** KidsHealth.org, January 2017

### Did You Know Fun Facts About January

- On average, January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and a summer month equivalent of July in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Sometimes January was called the Wolf Month because hungry wolves would come into villages searching for food this time of year.
- January's birthstone is Garnet. It is said that garnet represents balance, which is definitely something we all need after the crazy busy month of December.



**Getting to Know Your Title I Staff at Walls**

Meet **Mrs. Amy Jajtner**. She is a **Title I Reading and Math Tutor** here at Walls School. Mrs. Jajtner obtained her teaching degree from Valparaiso University, Indiana. She has been in the teaching profession for many years; substituting long-term and teaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. She is passionate about kids and wants to make a difference in their lives. That is what prompted her to go into the field of education.

Amy currently lives in Cuyahoga Falls. She and her husband Adam, who is a Professor at Kent State University, recently moved to this area last year.

Her hobbies and interests include reading, going to the movies (anything with Tom Hanks), working out/ running at Kent State Rec Center and traveling. She loves country and top 40 music, comedies and documentaries.

Her positive teaching experiences so far in Title have come from getting to work with so many teachers at Walls and seeing their different teaching styles. "Also, I love helping the diverse needs of all the students in my reading and math groups," says Amy. The most important thing students should learn in her class is that learning is FUN! Mrs. Jajtner states, "Learning new things is how we grow as people. Reading and Math skills are very important in order to study and learn about all new things."

The Title I program is important to her. Mrs. Jajtner feels it helps struggling at risk students and helps them improve by providing reinforcement of skills in an individual/small group session. She knows the parent-teacher relationship is also so important and feels parents need to be kept 'in the loop' so they can reinforce skills/behaviors/strategies taught at school at home. She introduced herself to many of her student's parents with notes to home, noting goals for their children and how to communicate back to her if need be.

Mrs. Jajtner loves watching her kids get excited as they achieve their goals. "My greatest pleasure in teaching is when I can help motivate struggling learners to make growth in their academic performance," states Amy. She is very dedicated to our students. We hope you take the opportunity to meet her personally.

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In the coming months, we will be highlighting other Walls Title I staff members. These persons serve as liaisons between the Title I education program and our parents. We hope by getting to know them better, it will help to build a strong foundation for parental involvement. Watch for future newsletters with information and facts about our other Walls Title staff members.

**Site Review**

**Resources available for Parents and Families:**

Checkout this website: **thekidzpage** has been online since 1998. **thekidzpage.com** is a free website for kids! It has hundreds of free kids games, puzzles, activities, coloring pages, clip art & more for children, families, parents and teachers... Kids of all ages are invited to play! Also they have free online games, puzzles and kids pintables in the kid's games & activities sections! New educational and fun games, activities and pintables are added on a regular basis for kids, schools and family fun. See: [www.http://thekidzpage.com](http://thekidzpage.com)

**Kids Corner**

**Calendar Events: Celebrate Family Literacy Year Round with Monthly Activities for JANUARY that Parents and Children Can Do Together**

**The New Year January 2017:** Make a vocabulary resolution — you and your child can learn a new word each week for the entire year. Keep a list of the words you learn.

**January is National Soup Month:** Celebrate by serving alphabet soup. See who can be the first to spell a word from the letters in the soup.



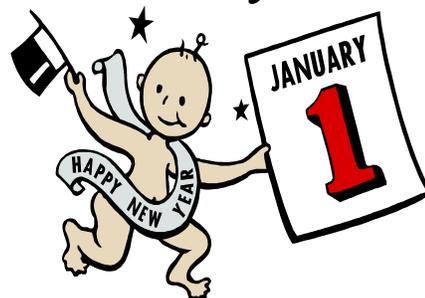
**National Handwriting Day (January 23):** Practice handwriting by writing a note to a family member (aunt or uncle, grandparent, cousin). The note could be a thank you note for holiday gifts or a note about what you have been doing in school so far this year.



***Here are our 2016-2017 Title I Contacts for our Title I Program at your school***

- **Literacy Coach; Mrs. Rachel Yohn:**  
Davey School (330-676-7409)  
Longcoy School (330-676-8379)
- **Literacy Coach, Mrs. Kristin Garner:**  
Holden School (330-676-8400)  
Walls School (330-676-8300)
- **Parent Involvement Coordinator,**  
Ms. Pam Bose: All Schools (330-676-7425)
- **Federal Grants Coordinator,** Mrs. Karen Rumley, Director of Instructional Program:  
All Schools (330-676-7600)

*Best Wishes for 2017*



**Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success**