



# Parent Resource Newsletter

## Monthly tip for parents

### Listen and Learn with Audio Books



Audio books are a wonderful way to expose your child to complex language, expressive reading, and fantastic stories. Listening to audio books also gives kids the valuable and enjoyable experience of

using their own imagination to visualize the people and places they're hearing about. Audio books are a great way to experience stories anytime, anywhere.

#### What to look for

- **Familiar stories.** For your child, listening to an audio book is a very different experience from hearing you read a book aloud. Look for audio books of stories your child has heard you read or tell before. Being familiar with the story will help your child enjoy hearing it from a different reader and become a willing listener.
- **Easy-to-use format.** Consider what format will work best for you and your child. Audio books are available as CDs, pre-loaded MP3, and digital. You can often find them at your local public library. There are also many online digital services such as Audible and Tales2Go.
- **Quality titles.** When choosing audio book titles, seek suggestions from your librarian and recommendations from experts, such as Notable Children's Recordings from the American Library Association. But also get kid opinions on selections to help get them invested before listening begins.
- **Good production.** Whenever possible, listen to a sample of the audio book before you dive in. If the narrator's voice grates on your nerves or you find added music and sound effects to be a distraction, you'll save listeners in your family some time and pain.

#### What to do

- **Listen to audio books together.** Audio books are a wonderful shared reading experience and a shared story gives everyone in the family something to talk about. Plus, you can help boost your child's thinking skills by asking questions about what you've listened to or take turns with your child retelling favorite parts of the story.
- **Feel free to stop listening.** If an audio book isn't engaging, try another!
- **Keep your young listeners in mind.** While kids can listen on a higher level than they can read, some stories may be too complex for young listeners to follow and enjoy. There is an abundance of audio picture books and poetry to enjoy and no need to rush straight into Harry Potter.
- **Don't let audio books take the place of you reading aloud to your child or telling them stories.** The time you spend together will help your child make a lasting discovery of what reading for pleasure is all about.

**Resource:** www. Reading Rockets; January 2017 article, By: Reading Rockets, Rachael Walker

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

### Helping Your Child Succeed

#### Teach Kindness in Kids

##### One Way: Assign chores.

Kids should understand that a certain amount of helping is requested and required "just because": just because they're members of a family, just because they live under the same roof, and just because it's the right thing to do. So show them where the cat food is or how to clear the dinner table and make their beds. And keep a chore chart to track and reward completion of their tasks. Your kids will feel great pride in doing their share and learn the importance of helping others.



#### Did You Know

This year, **Random Acts of Kindness Week** begins February 12-18, marking the beginning of a week-long celebration dedicated to encouraging people to do one thing: *be kind*. While the delivery of this message is appropriate for all times, it's especially appropriate now.

**History:** Random Acts Of Kindness Day (this year, February 17<sup>th</sup> in the USA) was first created in Denver, Colorado in 1995, Random Acts of Kindness can include just about anything, including something as simple as sharing an umbrella in the rain, lifting someone up with your words with a compliment, giving a smile or simple hello to a stranger...all these things can help to really turn around someone who's having a bad day.

**How to Celebrate?** Every day should be a day to be kind, but here are some ways to spread kindness around on this day.

- \* Smile at a stranger at your bus stop.
- \* Say "thank you" to your bus driver for driving you safely.
- \* Compliment a friend.
- \* Buy someone their favorite snack.
- \* Help your neighbor shovel snow.
- \* Make a note to do nice things throughout the day and use #RandomActsOfKindnessDay to post on social media.



**Did You Know...**that randomness is a mathematical concept? In statistics and probability, a random event means that it cannot be predicted.

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

Meet **Ms. Rene Scopilliti** She is a **Title I Reading and Math Tutor** here at Walls School. This is Ms. Scopilliti's second year in our Wall's Title I program; however, her third year teaching for Kent City Schools. She is a graduate of Notre Dame College where she earned her Early Childhood Education license and also her Reading Endorsement.

Rene is mother to baby girl Payton, who she adores and who arrived last Spring. She was so happy to return to Walls this year for Title I and see all of her hard working students again.

What provides Ms. Scopilliti her greatest pleasures in teaching in the Title I program, is watching students grow in their Reading and knowledge in all subject areas. "I love being able to work with all grades; Kindergarten to Fifth, and working with many students", says Rene. Seeing that "ah-ha" moment in students after working really hard on a skill has been her most positive teaching experiences so far. "I believe the core subject area is Reading. Reading goes with each subject", states Rene.

Miss Scopilliti believes the parent-teacher relationship is very important. She keeps parents involved in the learning process by staying in contact with them through emails and notes. Also she sends home work activities and stories that can be completed together. She encourages parents to be actively involved with learning at home. "It could be as simple as reading a bed time story each night or listening to your child read", says Rene.

We welcome Ms. Scopilliti back to Walls and we are happy to have her as a Title Tutor committed to your students here at Walls. We hope you take the opportunity to meet her personally. 😊

**Kids' Corner**

**Create a Kindness Jar for Random Acts of Kindness Week**

Can you imagine a community of people doing kind acts? Even if the recipient is not doing a good deed, you will be touching them and making them smile. First, get out a pen and some paper and brainstorm some kind activities you can do for family members, friends, teachers or others... no matter how big or small. You will be surprised how easily you come up with ideas. Then follow directions below:

**Materials:** a Mason jar, coffee can or another type of container, kind acts written out on strips of paper  
**Directions:**

1. Print kind acts onto strips of paper: For example:  
At School: sit by someone who is sitting alone at lunch, pick up trash in the hallway, write a thank you note to a teacher, etc.  
At Home: help mom with the dishes, play with baby brother while mom takes a rest, get Dad his newspaper, or help sister learn how to ride a bike.
2. Put your strips into jar.
3. Pull one strip out each day and do that kind act sometime during **Random Acts of Kindness Week**.
4. Using the Five W's (Who, What, Where, Why, When, and How) keep a journal and write daily the kind acts you performed or share aloud your kind activity experience with your family.



**SCHOOL NEWS**

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**Time off in February**

**Monday - February 20<sup>th</sup>** - Don't forget **President's Day** is a day off from school. **Presidents' Day**, celebrated each year on the third Monday in February, is a day when Americans honor the legacies of the U.S. presidents. To celebrate President's Day, head to the library and checkout a book on the lives and accomplishments of all U.S. presidents.

**Site Review**

**Resources available for Parents and Families:**

**Check out this Website:**

**BrainPOP** is a trusted learning resource supporting core and supplemental subjects; reaching millions of learners worldwide. It gently encourages young learners to ask questions and form their own ideas. **BrainPOP** has engaging learning games, animated movies and activities designed with relevance, depth and humor to encourage kids on their unique learning path. Kids learn about historical events, science and even the stock market, all with the help of a plucky robot and his friends. Check it out!

*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)



*Buckeye Chuck sees his shadow. Predicts 6 more weeks of winter !!*

Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success