



Parent Resource Newsletter



Creating Holiday Learning Traditions

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO Helping Your Child Succeed in School

New Year's Resolution Ideas for Parents

During the holiday season, consider adding some new traditions for your family that will make meaningful memories and strengthen foundations for reading and learning success.

Listen, laugh, learn

- * Listen to audio books while you're traveling to visit family, wrapping gifts or cooking for the holidays.
- * Lyrics to holiday songs are fun to read and sing together. It is also good fun and good collaborative writing practice to make up your own lyrics to familiar tunes.
- * Start a story-telling tradition by revisiting holidays of the past. Old family photographs at holiday gatherings will help prompt stories about your own life and family traditions.



Read, relax, respond

- * Put reading and writing skills to practical use. Plan holiday meals by reading cookbooks together, writing the shopping lists and finding the needed items at the store by reading signs and labels. Read the recipe and cook together. During the simmering and baking, kids can write and decorate menus or place cards for special holiday meals.
- * Set aside time just for reading. Curl up on the couch together and read aloud an old favorite or check out books about another culture's winter celebrations.
- * Work on those letters. Improve writing skills with letters to Santa and writing thank you notes for holiday gifts to relatives and friends.

Resource: Reading Rockets: Monthly Tips for Parents

Keep Skills Sharp During Winter Break

- * **Have a family game night.** Chances are many of your family's favorite board and card games reinforce skills such as counting, reading, and drawing; and also doing puzzles and playing games of strategy. Jigsaw, Sudoku and many other types of puzzles use the same thought processes and tenacity needed to solve difficult math problems. Many card games such as cribbage and others like Yahtzee are fun ways to promote mathematical problem-solving and probability. Gather the group to play games you usually don't have time for on school nights. Hopefully students will learn to enjoy these activities and make them a daily part of their lives.

Resource: Homeroom; the official blog of the U.S. Dept. of Education

As we start the New Year, it's important to reflect on the past year and remind ourselves of our good parenting successes and the ways we have acted in the best interests of our children. Keep inspired with just a few parenting resolution suggestions. We hope you find them realistic and doable throughout the New Year 2018.

1. **Say "Yes" More.** Try saying "yes" more to spending quality family time and doing things together.
2. **Say "No" More.** When it comes to I want, I need, everyone has it, and everyone does it, learn how to say "no."
3. **Worry Less.** Keeping kids safe should be a priority, but don't let your worries drive your life. Instead, find ways to make your kid's world safer and let them actively explore what's around them.
4. **Listen More; Talk at Less.** Ask "What do you think? What are you feeling? Tell me about it. What would you do?"
5. **Read a Little More.** It's not only a good way to spend time together, but reading to your child, with your child, and in front of your child will also help them grow as readers.
6. **Write a Little More.** Get in a habit of writing notes of encouragement, love, recognition, and daily appreciation of life.
7. **Expect a Little More.** Expect more from your children, like good behavior, responsibility, manners, kindness, and all of the goodness that lies within your kids.

Resource: Bright Horizons; Family Resources

Did You Know

BOXING DAY is celebrated on

December 26th. Some people celebrate it on the first weekday after Christmas, if Christmas falls on a Friday or a Saturday.

What is Boxing Day and How Did it Get Its Name?

Boxing Day originated in the United Kingdom, and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Commonwealth. It is a legal holiday in these countries. This is also St. Stephan's Day, where Boxing Day gets its roots.



On St. Stephan's Day, churches opened their collection boxes to the poor, and Boxing Day was an expression of appreciation and thanks, much like Christmas tips are today. The holiday goes back to the Middle Ages. On this day, members of the merchant class would take boxes, fill them with food and fruits, and give them to servants, tradespeople and the less fortunate. In the case of servants, they would work on Christmas Day, so it was only fitting that immediately after Christmas, they would be given a day off to celebrate.

Nowadays, the most accepted aim of the occasion is a rest from hard preparations from Christmas and good times with friends and relatives. However, the day is famous worldwide for its sales. Many people spend hours in long lines buying goods they did not receive for Christmas.

TITLE I NEWS

A Note from Title I

Another year end, another holiday season. Where does the time go? Our Winter break is just around the corner and so is the Christmas season and holidays. It is hard to believe!!!



We had a wonderful start to our Title I school year and our excitement and enthusiasm continues to the end of 2017. There is so much learning here at Kent City Schools and in our Title I program. Our students have been working extremely hard on their reading and math skills. We are so proud of them and are happy for all their successes thus far. At this time of year, we remember how lucky we are here at Kent Schools. We remember how fortunate we are to have extra educational alternatives such as Title I. We are fortunate to have great students and talented teachers. We are also fortunate to have incredible parents who support our work and help in many different ways. Thanks to all you wonderful parents who are helping their children succeed!!! Keep up the great work in the New Year!

Have a wonderful and relaxing *Winter Break*, however; keep up with those reading and math skills throughout. The Title I staff from each of our elementary schools would like to wish you and your family best wishes for success and happiness in the New Year. Looking forward to seeing you in 2018!



Dates to Remember:

Winter Break: Starts Friday, December 22nd, with that day being an **Early Release Day** and students being dismissed at 1:00. That date is also the End of our Second Nine Weeks and End of our First Semester. Look for Progress Reports coming home with your students.

School Reopens: We will be returning to school on Monday, January, 8th, 2018. Mark your new calendars.

Site Review

Resources available for Parents and Families:

Website for learning and fun—for kids and parents together-

Websites for Kids and Christmas **HOLIDAY** Break: Pages that Entertain and Educate-

When your kids are begging for some computer time this holiday season, check out this Christmas Website for kids. It will keep them (and you) entertained for hours by providing a ton of fun and a little education too.

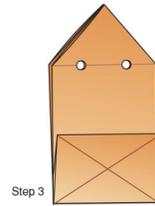
Check out XmasFun.com. It is an interactive website with some great elements. Trivia games focusing on certain categories; (songs, Rudolph, TV/Movies), sixteen different games and links to some of film and TV's most famous Christmas specials make this a great website for all ages. Explore features such as Christmas crafts, fonts, graphics, recipes, jokes, music and more. Another highlight is the site's list of random acts of kindness, which kids can add too as they try to share the Christmas spirit during this time of year.

This Christmas website is sure to have your kids giggling, singing, and learning. As with any website, parental involvement is encouraged to ensure that kids have a fun and safe online experience. Visit the site often and have a happy holiday!

Kids' Corner

Rudolph Goody Bag Reindeer Bag Craft

This adorable bag can hold a small holiday gift, party treats, or a serving of reindeer food. You pick!



MATERIALS for one:

- brown paper lunch bag (folded),
- 12" brown pipe cleaner,
- white and red paper scraps,
- hole puncher, scissors, glue, black crayon

DIRECTIONS:

1. Trim the top of the bag into a point; then fold the trimmed portion forward. Crease the fold.
2. Cut one red circle (nose) and two white circles (eyes) from the paper scraps. Add crayon details. Glue the features on the flap.
3. Unfold the flap. Slide the hole-puncher onto the crease and punch a hole. Repeat on the opposite end of the crease.
4. When the bag is filled, thread the pipe cleaner through the holes. Trim a two-inch piece from each end and twist the pieces onto the pipe cleaner to make antlers.
5. To open the bag, untwist the antlers and remove the pipe cleaner.

Here are the 2017-2018 Title I Contacts for our Title Program at your School:

Literacy Coach; Mrs. Rachel Yohn:

*Davey School (330-676-7409)
Longcoy School (330-676-8379)*

Literacy Coach, Mrs. Kristin Garner:

*Schoolwide Holden School (330-676-8400)
Walls School (330-676-8300)*

Family Engagement Coordinator,

Ms. Pam Bose: All Schools (330-676-7425)

Federal Grants Coordinator, Mrs. Karen

*Rumley, Director of Instructional Program:
All Schools (330-676-7600)*



Parents
plus
Schools
equals
Success