

# Parent Resource Newsletter

## Poetry and Reading Fluency

### Using Poetry to Teach Reading



If you ever recited a nursery rhyme, played "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" or sung "If You're Happy and You Know It," you prepared your child for learning to read. Familiar songs and poems strengthen your child's ability to hear the sounds of our language — a skill that serves well when they learn to connect sounds with letters (phonics) in kindergarten and 1st grade. Part of teaching reading is motivating the children to practice, practice, and practice. You can use children's poetry to encourage kids to read and become fluent.

Poetry and reading fluency are an excellent match for all students. Integrating poetry into reading is a great way to promote fluent reading through repeated reading of readable and intriguing texts. However, despite the wonderful potential of poetry to explore language, it is one of the most often neglected components of the language arts curriculum. Turning poetry into a performance, which it is meant to be, and turning away from too much critical analysis, can give poetry its rightful place in the reading-language arts curriculum. Moreover, when poetry performance is fostered, reading fluency is also nurtured as students attempt to make their oral interpretations just right — and this means repeated readings, but in a very natural and purposeful way.

Simply select a day for a poetry party. Prior to the event, select a poem to learn from poetry books and anthologies from a library, or have your child compose their own poem. Over the next several days, practice reading poems in preparation for the poetry party.

When the poetry party day finally arrives, the lights are dimmed, a lamp on a desk is turned on, hot apple cider and popcorn are served, and your children take turns performing their poems. Your child's expressive and interpretive readings of their poems are responded to with warm applause.

**Resource:** Timothy V. Rasinski (2000) *The Reading Teacher*

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO Helping Your Child Succeed in School

### Some Favorite Children's Poets

There are favorites among the children's poets; Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, Judith Viorst, & Eloise Greenfield to name a few. Below are a few of their books. Visit the library with your child & check them out.

- **Jack Prelutsky**
  - *The New Kid on the Block*
  - *Something BIG Has Been Here*
  - *A Pizza the Size of the Sun*
  - *The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*
  - *The Baby Uggs Are Hatching*
  - ...and numerous more
- **Shel Silverstein**
  - *A Light in the Attic*
  - *Where the Sidewalk Ends*
  - *Falling Up*
- **Judith Viorst** writes fiction/nonfiction for children and adults
  - *If I Were In Charge of the World and Other Worries*
- **Eloise Greenfield** writes fiction and poetry
  - *Nathaniel Talking*

### Did You Know ?



**Visit:**  
[www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home](http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home) to celebrate **National Poetry Month** and **Poem in Your Pocket Day** on **April 26<sup>th</sup>** at your local library or bookstore.

April is **National Poetry Month**: 30 days of celebrating the joy, expressiveness, and pure delight of poetry. It was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, and National Poetry Month is now held every April, when publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country band together to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.

## Title I News

**Learning, Fun and “Clowning Around” at our “Under the Big Top with Title I”.**

### TITLE I Family Night Held

On Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, our Title I staff from **Davey, Longcoy and Walls** elementary school buildings held our Title I Family Night, “**Under the Big Top with Title I**”. It was held at Davey School. The evening was centered around a circus theme with all of our fun learning activities relating to the circus.

To start, a light refreshment of popcorn, animal crackers and beverages were served while families waited for the evening to begin and students worked on their circus theme headbands.

After introductions, our students; with clown admission tickets in hand and along with their parents, headed to Literacy and Math stations.

The Literacy and Math stations included circus bingo, popcorn math, a sight-word popcorn game and a math ring toss to name a few.

It seemed much fun was had by all participants competing and learning along the way.



Audrianna & Brianna Thomson, 1st graders from Walls, play the Sight Word Popcorn game at our Circus Family Night



Some of our Title I Staff take a pic in front of our “Under the Big Top” photo booth

Another highlight of the evening was our selfie photo booth for parents and students to take pics to remember their evening “**Under the Big Top**”.

In the end, prizes were awarded to those lucky guessers of our estimation jars. All students were given a take home packet with material from our stations as well as a few more prizes.

We hope all who attended enjoyed our Title I event and found it fun as well as educational. The Title I staff enjoyed meeting with Title I students and their families and sharing strategies along the way.

We know how hard it is to take time out of your busy schedules to spend an evening with us and we appreciate it and **THANK** all of you for your attendance. We also want to thank you for your daily support and encouragement at home. As always, you may contact us for any materials or with any questions. 😊

### Site Review

**Resources available for Parents and Families:**

**Check out this Website:**

**www.coolmath.com** - CoolMath calls itself “an amusement park of math and more.” Children can play online math games that help them with addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, money and more. CoolMath is geared toward ages 13 and up, but sister site [CoolMath4Kids.com](http://CoolMath4Kids.com) is appropriate for ages 3 through 12.

## Kids' Corner

### Earth Day Activities for Kids



**April 22nd is Earth Day**, an annual celebration dedicated to environmental awareness. Discover ways you and your family can participate in Earth Day while also practicing reading and writing skills.

- 1. Read a book!** Dr. Seuss's book *The Lorax* may be one of the best known children's books about the environment and trees. Read *The Lorax* as a family. Talk about the difference between the lands before and after the Once-ler arrived. Talk about ways the Lorax spoke for the trees and why it's important to speak up for something you believe in.
- 2. Plant a tree!** Learning how to choose the right tree or plant for your area involves reading and understanding the tags provided with plants. Work together to understand the symbols related to the amount of sunlight and water appropriate for a plant and how much fertilizer is recommended or how deep to dig a hole. You will be learning and digging in the dirt at the same time!
- 3. Go for a walk!** One great family activity is to go on a nature walk in your neighborhood. As you walk, use a journal to record any wildlife, animal tracks, insects, or interesting plants that you see. Draw pictures and write captions too.
- 4. Give yourself a hand!** Trace your hand and cut it out. On each finger, write one way you can help the Earth. Ideas might include turning off a light when leaving a room, shutting off the water when brushing teeth, or opening a window instead of using the air conditioner. Display your Earth Day hand on the refrigerator for all to see!

Regardless of the activity you choose, be sure to make this Earth Day the best one yet!

*Here are our 2017-2018 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:**

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)

*April Showers !*



Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success