



# Parent Resource Newsletter

November....A Busy Month...  
Report Cards, Conferences and  
Thanksgiving

## Reports Cards Sent Home – End of 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks

### How to handle report cards:

- Talk with your child about each grade—calmly. Does she know why she got that grade? Can she explain it to you? What does she think needs to be done?
- Talk with the teacher to get her views on needed improvements and suggestions for ways to improve.
- Find out what help your school offers. Tutoring may be available or after-school classes on study skills.
- Consider getting outside help. Perhaps an older student will work with your child. A neighbor might be glad to help.
- Remember that grade cards report on only a few things. They can't tell about a child's dreams or ambitions or what the child will become in the future. Grades are not a measure of a child's worth, just a picture of current school performance.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences; Nov 21<sup>st</sup> and/or Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>

### How to get the most from parent-teacher conferences:

- Think about what you want to learn in the conference. Prepare some questions.
- Talk with your child. Ask what she thinks the teacher will say. Ask if she has any concerns. In addition, talk about likes, dislikes, problems, and successes.
- Ask the teacher to explain anything you don't understand. Special programs for children are sometimes referred to by their initials.
- Be prepared to talk and listen. Tell the teacher what you see at home. Talk about your child's interests. Tactfully talk about any concerns. And be sure to let the teacher know about anything that might affect your child's learning.
- Follow up. Stay in touch with the teacher. If you think of a question you didn't ask, write a note.

Resource: This information was prepared by Dr. John H. Wherry, President, The Parent Institute, "Education's #1 Source for Family Involvement Information," P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474, 1-800-756-5525.

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

**Family Literacy Day** was celebrated in the United States on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Family Literacy Day promotes reading within the home. Even though it has past, it is not too late to engage children and adults alike in reading through the following Family Literacy Day activities below:

### Read-a-thon

- Plan to set aside a day without television or computers in your home. Each family member spends their time reading during the evening and discussing the books read. Encourage children to summarize and retell the story they read. Make the reading event festive by piling pillows on the floor and preparing special reading snacks such as popcorn or homemade trail mix.

### Book Clubs

- For families with children of various ages, look for book clubs for younger children that read books on a middle school or elementary school reading level. Look for book clubs for children and adults in local bookstores and at public libraries.

### Word Games

- Spend Family Literacy Day playing word games that rely on the vocabulary built through reading. Younger children can do word searches while older children and adults can play games such as crossword puzzles, crossword board games such as Scrabble and word-find games such as Boggle.

Resource: Read more: Activities for Family Literacy Day | eHow.com  
[http://www.ehow.com/info\\_7845427\\_activities-family-literacy-day](http://www.ehow.com/info_7845427_activities-family-literacy-day)

## Did You Know ?



### Thanksgiving (USA)

Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a traditional North American holiday, which is a form of harvest festival. The date and whereabouts of the first Thanksgiving celebration is a topic of modest contention, though the earliest attested Thanksgiving celebration was on September 8, 1565 in what is now Saint Augustine, Florida. Despite any scholarly research to the contrary, however, the traditional "first Thanksgiving" is venerated as having occurred at the site of Plymouth Plantation, in 1621. Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October in Canada and on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States.

## TITLE I NEWS

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

You may have noticed we have some new faces at Walls this year and one of them is **Mrs. Jean Hiestand**. Mrs. Hiestand is this year's Walls *Title I Reading Consultant*. Although not new to teaching, Mrs. Hiestand has been an educator for thirty-two years and has been involved in the Title I program for Kent Schools for sixteen years. Mrs. Hiestand is also not new to Walls, some may remember her as having taught Extended Day Kindergarten and then as the Title I Reading Consultant. We are happy she is returning this year to Walls as our Reading Consultant.

Mrs. Hiestand lives in Kent with her husband. They have raised two delightful children, who are both now married and living out of state. She misses them dearly and looks forward to visits with them.

Mrs. Hiestand earned her Bachelors and Masters' degree from Kent State University. She also attended many graduate classes in Administration at Xavier University and Ursuline College. Other educational accomplishments include earning the Kent State University Teacher Award and also writing/co-writing several teaching grants that provided books and various educational materials to children and their families. "It is so important for children to have their own books and these grants helped put books in the children's homes," says Mrs. Hiestand.

Mrs. Hiestand always wanted to be a teacher. She thoroughly enjoys working with children; especially teaching reading. She can remember "playing" school with family members and neighborhood friends when she was young.

She believes the Title I program is so important because of the one-on-one or small group support it gives. She also believes it is her job to help children become more confident and therefore become more successful. Some of her most positive teaching experiences come from being involved with those very specific goals for each child. She is a wonderful mentor to our Title I Tutors and a great support to our Walls Teaching staff.

We are so fortunate and proud to have such a dedicated Title I staff member. She is such a talented teacher and our Title I students and staff benefit as a result of her hard work.

Please welcome **Mrs. Jean Hiestand** back to Walls. We hope you have the time to meet and talk with her personally.

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### Site Review

#### **Resources available for Parents and Families:**

Website for learning and fun—for kids and parents together-- This month's website to see is:

#### Read To Me

For kids who want to hear one more story...visit the Read to Me website where kids 'push play' to watch videos of favorite stories like *Chrysanthemum*, *Lily's Big Day*, and *Fancy Nancy*, being read aloud with enthusiasm and charm by a variety of celebrities. The site also includes lesson plans filled with discussion questions, writing prompts, and activities for exploration and creativity. There's also a phone service where kids can access stories anytime.

Website: <http://www.readtomelv.com>

### Kids' Corner - Family Activity

#### Create a Thankful Tree

Want a fun way for you and your family to display all that you are thankful for?? Make a Thankful Tree!!

#### Materials

- Flowerpot
- Art sand, small pebbles, rocks or marbles
- Bare tree branch
- Colored card stock or construction paper (fall colors)
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Large ornament hanger, straightened paper clip or colored yarn.



#### Instructions

- Fill a flowerpot with sand/or pebbles and set in a shapely bare tree branch.
- Next, cut a pile of leaf shapes from colored paper.
- As your guests arrive, have them take a leaf and, with a permanent marker, write their name and the date on one side and something they're grateful for on the other side.
- To decorate your tree, push ornament hanger or paper clip through the stem of each leaf or punch a hole and tie with yarn and hang it in place.

### *Here are the 2011-2012 Title I Contacts for our Title Program at Your School:*

#### **Consultant, Mrs. Jeanie Hiestand:**

*Davey School (330-676-7462)*

*Walls School (330-676-8300)*

#### **Consultant, Mrs. Katrina Kelling:**

*Holden School (330-676-8433)*

*Longcoy School (330-676-8350)*

#### **Principal, Todd Poole:**

*Franklin School (330-676-8450)*

#### **Parent Involvement Coordinator,**

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

#### **Federal Grants Coordinator, Mrs. Lori**

Slattery, Director of Instructional Program:

*All Schools (330-676-7600)*



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