

February 2012 BENSON

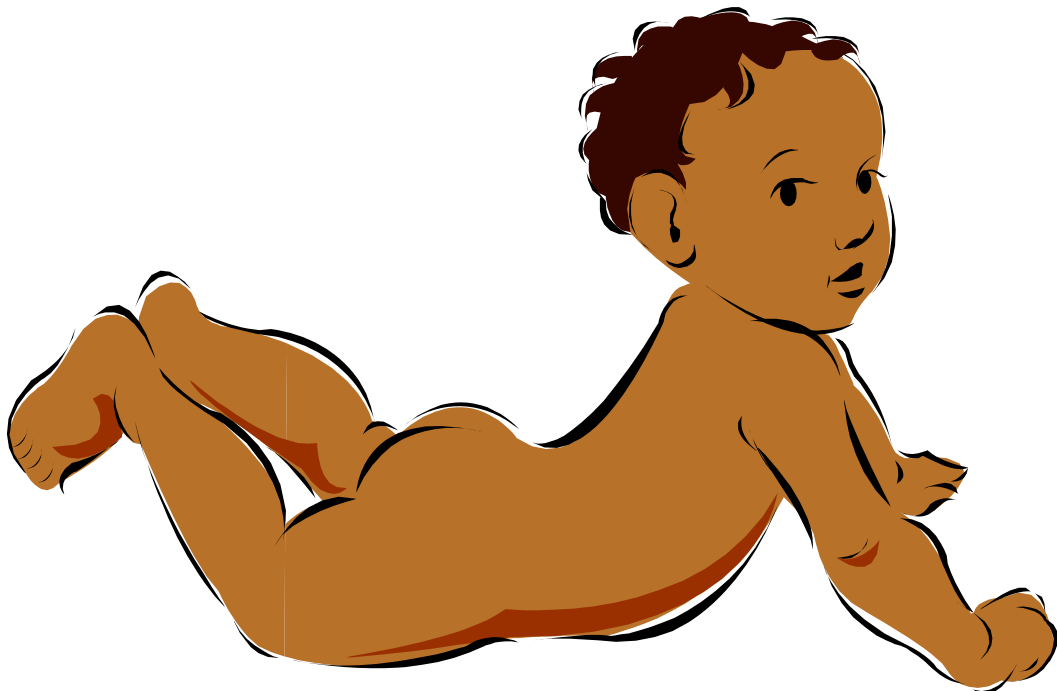
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Absence Policy: Parents must contact the school to report their child's absence by calling 773-0554 for Benson or 773-0100 for Franzen during regular school hours. Contact the District Administrative center at 773-1232, press 3 followed by Franzen press #3 or Benson press #2 between 4:30 pm and 8:00 am. Please state your child's name, teacher's name and explain the type of illness or specific reason for absence. Sex offender information can be obtained @ www.itsca.com click on police department link.</p>			1	2 Kindergarten Conferences 1:00-8:00 PM @ Benson	3 1st Grade Music Informance IEPTO Father/Daughter Dinner Dance @ Venuti's	4
			Benson Primary School Assessment Week			
5	6 Chess Club 3:25-4:25	7 Art Class 3:25-4:25 Screening for ages 3-5 @ Benson	8 Board of Ed Mtg 7:00pm	9 Market Day pickup 5:30-6:30 PM @ Itasca Park District	10 Benson & Franzen - Hot Lunch	11
12	13 Chess Club 3:25-4:25	14 Art Class 3:25-4:25	15	16 Donuts with Dad for first graders @ Benson	17 Benson & Franzen - Hot Lunch	18
19	20 District Closed No School - President's Day IEPTO Skate Party 10-11:30 @ The Edge in Bensenville	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Chess Club 3:25-4:25	28	29 Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation (for parents only) @Benson 6:00 PM Tour and 6:30 PM meeting			

Traffic Reminders

- By law, it is illegal to operate a wireless phone in a school zone while operating a motorized vehicle.
- When approaching a marked school crossing zone between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on days when school is in operation and when school children are present, a driver must reduce his/her speed to 15 mph and yield to any children or adults crossing in the crosswalk area.
- Drivers must stop for pedestrians at a crosswalk, this includes **all** crosswalks marked or unmarked where there is not a stop sign or traffic light.

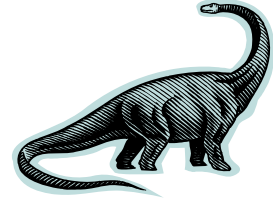
Early Childhood News

We have chosen a new unit of study on babies! The children have become very interested in learning about babies, as I will be having a baby in March. We looked at Mrs. Rummelhart's and some of the student's baby books we brainstormed some questions that we received answers for from our moms and dads. We also requested and received pictures of the children as a baby that we are using to make a baby book and draw self-portraits. We also will be viewing and exploring more baby books of the children and staff in the classroom. We will be using the information from the questions asked to create a graph about the children's growth from infant to present. We are getting excited to share our discoveries with our parents! Thanks for your cooperation and support with making this unit a success!





News from K-Prep



Dinosaurs have invaded Room Two at Benson! After Winter Break, the K-Prep students brainstormed and then voted on what they would like to learn about next. It was a close one with dinosaurs just barely winning over trains!

We've discovered that we know that dinosaurs once lived on Earth because their fossils have been found. Our United States map is constantly being looked at as we learn what dinosaur fossils were found in our own country! Parasaurolophus, Triceratops, Panoplosaurus, and T-Rex fossils have all been found in our country!

The class made a Venn Diagram of what was around when the dinosaurs lived, what is around now, and what was around when the dinosaurs lived and is still around now. This was a great lesson to help the students understand that it was never possible for a dinosaur to eat a person!

As we talk about each new type of dinosaur we have been focusing on what type of food it ate, how the body looked, and where it's fossils were found.

We'll soon be learning about how dinosaurs came from eggs and then making guesses as to why we think dinosaurs became extinct.

The children are really enjoying this theme and many of them are coming to school with their own knowledge to share with the class. It has been very exciting in Room Two!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS



Happy winter! Each day we have been adding winter words to our word wall! When the word is introduced the students try to figure out the word by putting the beginning sounds together while thinking of things associated with winter!

Our language activities now include the following "popcorn" words-GO, WE, TO, ON, I, A, THE, LIKE, AM, and MY. We are learning about cause and effect, making predictions and connections when reading stories. When we are reading our pre-decodable books we are becoming more confident reading fluently and with expression. Sentence writing has become part of our language work too. We are focusing on starting with a capital letter, leaving spaces between words, and using punctuation at the end of the sentence.

In Math we have been working with numbers 20-100. We are using a 100 chart to see the patterns in numbers and to find "big" numbers. Using a 10 frame we are counting groups of 10 to 100, and we have been practicing proper number writing.

NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE

We have been so busy in first grade. We are about well into our third reader from our basal series and are looking forward to our next reader entitled Time Together. We continue to build our vocabulary, decoding skills and comprehension on a daily basis. The children are really progressing in their reading skills. Please stress at-home reading on a nightly basis. This includes a parent read-aloud and or independent student reading. This practice helps to reinforce the skills taught in school and improves fluency. In addition to the shared reading experience that our basal provides, the children are also reading books which are leveled and appropriate to their reading level. While the teacher is meeting with a small group of students, the rest of the class is actively engaged at Literacy Centers. These centers may include: using the classroom computer to reinforce different skills, listening to a book on tape, working on an art project, "Working With Words", independent reading and writing activities.

In math, we are learning to add and subtract with tens and ones. Don't forget to use addition and subtraction flashcards. All of the first graders are doing Mad Minutes. These two minute addition and subtraction timed tests, assess accuracy and speed of basic facts.

We just concluded a science unit investigating the properties of solids and liquids. The students conducted many experiments with these two states of matter.

In Social Studies we will be learning all about two famous men born in the month of February (Abe Lincoln and George Washington). We will be reading about them, writing about them and doing some fun art projects. At the conclusion of our study of these men, we will begin a unit on Dental Health.

We are really stressing using proper language mechanics in our daily cross-curricular writing. The children should be using our Word Wall and spelling dictionaries to attempt proper spelling of high frequency words. We embrace the 6 + 1 Traits of writing. So far our first graders have learned about generating ideas for their writing, conventions (punctuation) and are beginning to discuss sentence fluency.

Once again we would like to thank our first grade parents for their involvement in the education of their child. It is a partnership.



News from Second Grade

It's hard to believe that we have completed half the school year!

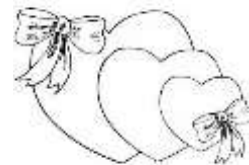
During the month of February, Second Grade students will be reading a variety of stories including "Dear Mr. Blueberry", "Cool Ali", and "The Emperor's Egg". Some of the skills the students will be learning about are cause and effect, oi/oy words, adjectives, oo/ue words, and antonyms. With the completion of these stories, we will once again be giving Reading assessments at the end of February.

Second Grade students are continuing to sharpen their math skills by adding and subtracting three digit numbers. They are also working on improving their quick recall of both addition and subtraction facts.

Our Health unit during the first part of February is learning about our hearts. We'll finish up the month with a unit about germs.

We are always busy learning about the 6 + 1 Writing Traits (ideas, conventions, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, organization, and presentation). Your child will be writing a variety of papers with emphasis on learning more about these traits.

Happy Valentine's Day!





1st Grade Music Informance

An informal performance based on

“King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub”

A book by Audrey Wood

Retold by Benson 1st grade students
with musical ideas by Judith Cole & special guest narrator!



Friday, February 3, 2012
Benson Primary School Gym

1:30 p.m. Mrs. Santellano’s & Ms. Schultz’s Classes

2:15 p.m. Mrs. Gallagher’s & Mrs. Celenza’s Classes

Students will perform songs and activities from their music class curriculum. Come get a first hand look into your child’s music class experience!

A Special Note: Our music demonstration will help to tell the story of King Bidgood, who wants to do everything in the bathtub! **Students may wear simple costumes on Feb. 3** to help us tell the story. Anything “royal” will do! Some suggestions include: a bath towel with a clip to be worn as a king or queen’s robe; a bathrobe that can be a king’s robe; a crown (Burger King crowns work well!); princess dresses; princess pajamas, etc. Students can get as creative as they wish, but please **keep it simple!** Students need to be able to move freely (we will be dancing and moving around!), so any clothing needs to be comfortable. Students may not carry anything, so please do not send any extra accessories. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kozakis at ekozakis@itasca.k12.il.us. Thank you!

DVD ORDER FORM
2011-12
FIRST GRADE INFORMANCE

We will be offering Benson Primary families the opportunity to order a DVD of the first grade informance presented this year.



Please use the order form below to capture these special moments of friends and family forever!

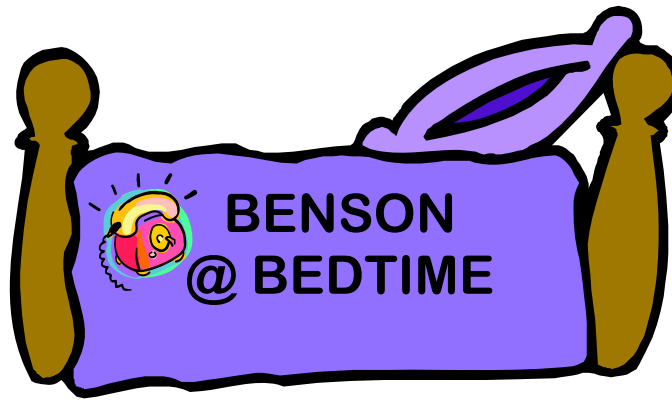
**Benson Primary School 2011-12 First Grade Informance
DVD Order Form**

Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____

1st Grade Program _____ DVD(s) x \$20.00 each= _____

Checks may be made payable to Zaker Video Productions

**Order forms/payment due to Benson Primary School
by February 3, 2012**



**WE HAVE DOUBLE THE READING FUN
WITH TWO - YES, TWO
BEDTIME STORIES RUNNING EACH DAY**

Call 630-773-1232 ... press "5" ... then ...

"1502"

1/27	Caitlin Alexander
1/31	Katie Bozek
2/3	Gino Cardone
2/7	Elle Hepperle
2/10	Jazmine Singh
2/14	Grant Pisarski
2/17	Teagan Locus
2/21	Lauren Wolfe
2/24	Sandra Kacmarczyk
2/28	Katie Okada
3/6	Abishek Devabhaktuni
3/9	Julia Bozek
3/13	Emily Himpleman

OR

"1579"

1/27	Shreeya Sinha
1/31	Gretchen Ownby
2/3	Kaavya Lodugu
2/7	Sophie Morikuni
2/10	Ava Bernardi
2/14	Adrian Knapik
2/17	Carli Tichy
2/21	Charlie Bledsoe
2/24	Alex Knapik
2/28	Samantha Lash
3/6	Stella Williams
3/9	Martina Latoria
3/13	Katerina Courlas

**and listen to a story after 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
and all day and night Saturday and Sunday!**

Do you want to be a [Benson@Bedtime](mailto:areuter@itasca.k12.il.us) reader?

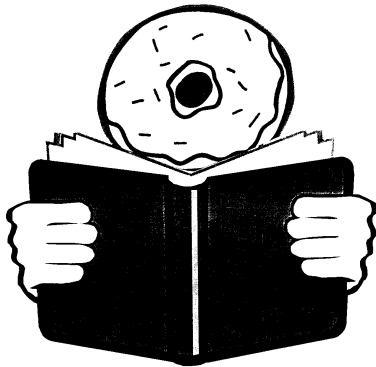
**Just contact Mrs. Reuter by note,
phone 773-0554, or e-mail (areuter@itasca.k12.il.us)
to be put on the schedule!**



FIRST GRADE FAMILIES ONLY



PLEASE JOIN US FOR BENSON PRIMARY'S



DONUTS WITH DAD

Come to school and enjoy reading & breakfast together!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.

Please return the RSVP below by Thursday, February 9

D w/D Q&A

Q: Wait – last school year I came with all of my Benson children to each of the morning events. Why is it different this year?

A: Quite frankly, we were happily overwhelmed by the success of D w/D during the 2010-2011 school year. Believing that this event will continue to grow in popularity, we are breaking up the grade levels to provide for the best reading experience.

Q: I have a first grader, but I also have a child in another grade at Benson. May I bring them both?

A: Your call. If you want quality one-on-one time with your first grader, leave the other babes at home. If you want to make this a family time, bring the whole gang.

Students will be supervised in the library from 8:45 – 8:55 a.m. If a father is unable to attend this event, an adult family member or friend may attend in his place. Please contact Mrs. Reuter with any questions: areuter@itasca.k12.il.us or 630-773-0554.

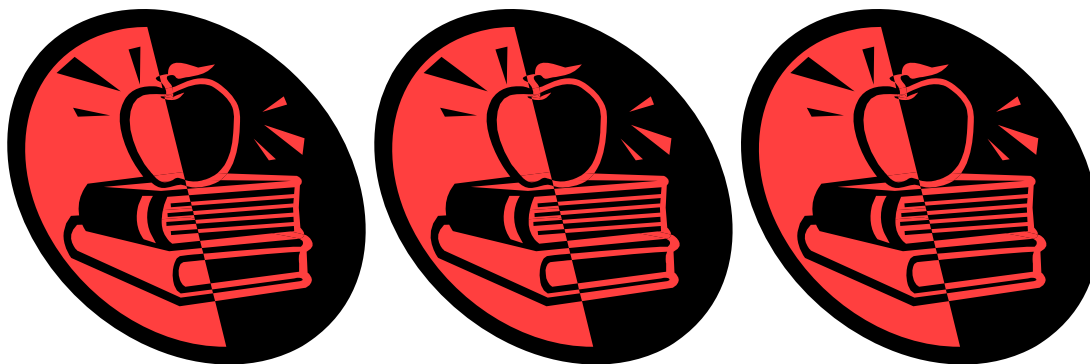
Yes! We will be attending the first grade DONUTS WITH DAD on Thursday, February 16 from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.



Child(ren) name(s): _____

Adult name: _____

Please note any food allergies:



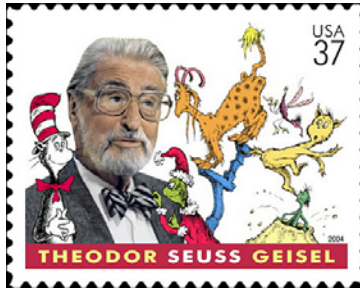
Assembly Notice

**The IEPTO is sponsoring an Historical
Perspectives assembly
at
Benson Primary School
on
Friday, February 17th beginning at 1:30 pm in
the gym**

**This assembly will be a one person play focusing
on the life and accomplishments
of
Harriet Tubman.**

**Morning students are invited to attend this
assembly when accompanied by an adult.**

**Benson Primary School would like to invite you
to participate in our annual picnic celebration
to honor the birthday of
Theodor Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss)
AND the 55th birthday of The Cat in the Hat**



**Thursday,
March 1, 2012**

**11:40 a.m. –
12:40 p.m.**

What's happening? First graders will be in our library from 11:45 - 12:05, and second graders from 12:10 - 12:35. (Kindergartners may come to either session with an adult). The students will be split into groups of six or eight, and sit on a blanket. A reader (that's where you come in) will be in a chair at the blanket and read a story to the children (about 6 minutes long). Then we'll sound the trumpets, and the readers will rotate to the next group. This way the students should each get to hear three different stories from a variety of community members as they eat their lunch and share conversation.

So now what? Write me an e-mail (areuter@itasca.k12.il.us), send a note or call (630-773-0554) to say that you would be happy to be a reader! You may choose your own book, or we will have one waiting for you on March 1.

Then ... show up, read and enjoy the celebration!

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

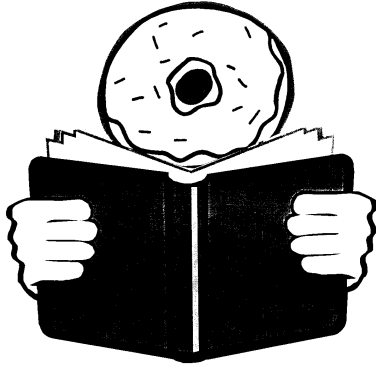
**Amy S. Reuter, Media Center Director
Benson Primary School**



SECOND GRADE FAMILIES ONLY



PLEASE JOIN US FOR BENSON PRIMARY'S



MORNING WITH MOM

Come to school and enjoy reading and a breakfast treat together!

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8
8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.**

Please return the RSVP below by Thursday, March 1

M w/M Q&A

Q: Wait – last year I came with all of my Benson children to each of the morning events. Why is it different this year?

A: Quite frankly, we were happily overwhelmed by the success of M w/M last year. Believing that this event will continue to grow in popularity, we are breaking up the grade levels to provide for the best reading experience.

Q: I have a second grader, but I also have a child in another grade at Benson. May I bring them both?

A: Your call. If you want quality one-on-one time with your second grader, leave the other babes at home. If you want to make this a family time, bring the whole gang.

Students will be supervised in the library from 8:45 – 8:55 a.m. If a mother is unable to attend this event, an adult family member or friend may attend in his place. Please contact Mrs. Reuter with any questions: areuter@itasca.k12.il.us or 630-773-0554.

Yes! We will be attending the first grade MORNING WITH MOM on Thursday, March 8 from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.



Child(ren) name(s): _____

Adult name: _____

Please note any food allergies:



Physical Education News

March 19-23 Benson and Franzen will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart. Please let me know if you would be available to help a half a day during that week!!!

kengel@itasca.k12.il.us

Don't let the cold weather keep you or your kids from exercising. Some good ideas for indoor winter exercise include yoga or pilates for strengthening muscles, improving flexibility, and lowering stress. There are yoga and pilates DVD's to check out at the library! Hula Hoop, juggling, or jumping rope could be done indoors. Perhaps you could put on a circus act for the family or your neighbors. Dancing is also a great way to stay in shape. High intensity dancing like "Just Dance" for Wii offers some fun and energetic dances for all.

News From the Art Room

It is already February...and another busy month in Art! The first graders have read "The Legend of the Bluebonnet" by Tomie dePaola and have discovered different stitching and appliqué techniques to create their own fiber collages. We have learned how to safely use sewing needles and how to tie knots onto them in order to stitch the stem of our "Bluebonnets" onto burlap. We will finish these beautiful flowers by creating a collage made up of felt, markers, and even finger-painting! These stunning flowers will be sure to impress! Next we will get back to basics by using several different texture rubbings, as well as the crayon-resist technique, to create some extremely unique "Textured Strip Designs". These vibrant paintings will be colorful enough to make you think that spring was right around the corner!

The second graders have finished the first step in creating their "Pinch Pot Animals". We will revisit these one of a kind creatures, once all have dried sufficiently and have been fired in the kiln, to add our glossy and colorful glaze. In the meantime, we are discovering the difference between positive and negative space in art. Using different positive and negative spaced heart stencils, we will create a colorful collage of hearts without tracing any of them at all! By filling in either the positive or negative space around the stencils, our hearts will appear out of nowhere! We will then finish these vibrant "Positive/Negative Hearts" using a watercolor wash, making them all the more spectacular!

Student art work will be displayed throughout the school as well as the community, including locations such as the District Office and Starbucks! Please stop by these locations to see all of our wonderful art work! The artwork shown is selected randomly and is changed every few weeks or so. I am very proud to be able showcase the students' artwork within the community!

Parents, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email; I appreciate all parents' input!

Eric Whitney
Art Teacher
Benson/Franzen
630-773-4018
ewhitney@itasca.k12.il.us

Know Before You Go

There are lots of ways to learn if your facility has an emergency closing!

Radio & TV: Get updates from your favorite radio or TV station



News/Talk 720
The Voice of Chicago®



cbs2chicago.com



ABC 7 CHICAGO



Online: Search for your facility by name & city or by phone number at

www.EmergencyClosings.com

Call: Use your facility's phone number as an ID when you call:

847/238-1234

E-mail: Register to have information sent right to you by visiting

www.EmergencyClosings.com

Your facility's name:

RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

City

ITASCA

Phone #

630-773-0554

EMERGENCY CLOSING CENTER™

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Benson Primary

This Valentine's Day, celebrate love poetry

Throughout history, people have written poems to show their love. With your child, pretend you're living years ago and write a *cinquain*—a classic style of poem that has five non-rhyming lines. This type of poem traces its roots all the way back to medieval France!

Here's how to write a cinquain:

- **For the first line**, write a noun that describes the topic of your poem.
- **For the second line**, write two adjectives that describe the topic of your poem.
- **For the third line**, write three action verbs ending in "-ing" that describe your topic.
- **For the fourth line**, write a short phrase that describes your topic.
- **For the final line**, write a noun that is a synonym for or another way to describe the topic of your poem.

Here's an example of a Valentine's Day-themed cinquain:

*hearts
sweet, colorful
sharing, crunching, giggling
a box of tiny love letters
candy*

For more sample cinquains, visit www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson43/RWT016-1.PDF.

Source: "Valentine's Day," Reading Rockets, www.readingrockets.org/calendar/valentine.

Three factors boost motivation to read

You want your child to spend free time reading, but you're not sure how to motivate her. Research shows certain factors make a difference:

1. **Confidence.** It's important for kids to feel good about themselves and reading. Talk with your child about her reading successes. Mention why reading is important.
2. **Choice.** Kids are more motivated when they pick what to read. Take regular trips to the library, and visit several sections (such as fiction, nonfiction and magazines).
3. **Interaction.** Model good reading skills by reading aloud to your child. Also encourage discussion about books in your family.

Source: L. Gambrell and B. Marinak, "Reading Motivation: What the Research Says," Reading Rockets, www.readingrockets.org/article/29624/.

Fiction makes history come alive

Want to build your child's interest in social studies? Try historical fiction. Look for stories that:

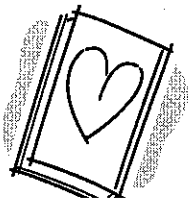
- **Present** the time period accurately.
- **Are** set in real places.
- **Teach** facts.
- **Include** helpful pictures.
- **Aren't** far fetched.
- **Avoid** misconceptions about the past.

Source: C. Newquist, "Teaching fact through historical fiction," Education World, www.educationworld.com/a_books/books002.shtml.



Share the love with written hearts

This month, write each family member's name on a heart cut out of paper. Now have everyone write one nice thing about everyone else. "I love when you read to your sister." "I love when you help me with homework." Post these notes where everyone can see them.



Graphic organizers can make understanding, remembering easier



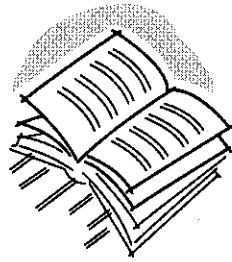
Something as simple as a picture of a tree can help kids organize what they read on paper. This boosts reading comprehension. Each large branch can represent part of the story (such as the main character, plot and setting). Smaller branches—which grow from the big branches—would leave room for details. Ask your child's teacher or look online for suggestions of other types of graphic organizers, too.

Show your child that books aren't boring

If your child received a book for his birthday, how would he feel?

- a) Thrilled.
- b) A little disappointed.
- c) Insulted.

If you chose *b* or *c*, you may have a reluctant reader. But there's still hope he'll enjoy that birthday book—and other reading materials. For example, you might:



- **Read aloud.** Depending on your child, you might read the entire book aloud, take turns reading aloud, or read the first page aloud and see if it prompts him to read the rest.
- **See movies.** Many books have movie versions. Encourage your child to read the book first, either independently or with you. Then enjoy seeing the film together.
- **Choose carefully.** Look for "high-interest" books that aren't intimidating or difficult to read. Ask a librarian for help.

Source: "Reclaiming Reluctant Readers," Work, Play, Read, www.workplayread.com/2011/09/reclaiming-reluctant-readers.html.

Science and reading soar high together

If your child likes science, encouraging her to read may be as easy as checking out books from the library. Try materials about:

- **Experiments.** The librarian can help you find books packed with science projects for kids. Janice VanCleave's *Science Around the Year* is a great example.
- **Famous scientists.** Perhaps your child has heard of Albert Einstein or George Washington Carver and wants to learn more. Or maybe she'd like to study someone new to her.



getty images

- **Irresistible topics.** Does your child love animals? Plants? Rocks? Space? Oceanography? There are countless scientific topics to research!



Q: My child has trouble reading. Will his reading struggles hurt his comprehension?

A: When kids struggle to read, sometimes they're so busy figuring out words that they don't absorb information. Work with the teacher to increase your child's fluency (ease of reading). As this

improves, so will comprehension. Meanwhile, use additional strategies to boost understanding. For example, talk about material before, during and after reading it. What will it be about? What is your child learning from it? What made it interesting?

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Speeches require positive feedback

A student's first public-speaking experience can be scary! When your child practices an oral report at home, keep your responses positive and helpful. For example, "I can hear you well. That's great! Now let's pretend I'm all the way in the back of the classroom. Let's make sure I can hear you from over here."



For lower elementary readers:

- **Marshall Armstrong Is New to Our School** by David Mackintosh (Abrams). Marshall Armstrong proves that being new and different is okay.



- **The One and Only Stuey Lewis** by Jane Schoenberg (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Stuey Lewis has plenty of problems, including difficulty with reading. But that won't stop him from surviving second grade.

For upper elementary readers:

- **Every Day on Earth** by Steve Murrie and Matthew Murrie (Scholastic). What amazing things happen every day on Earth? This book provides fascinating details, such as how much air a person inhales each day.
- **The Case of the Rock 'N' Roll Dog** by Martha Freeman (Holiday House). Items are disappearing around Cammie and Tessa's home—which is the White House, by the way. Will they be able to crack the case?

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Writer: Susan O'Brien.

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