

January 2012 BENSON

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 No School - Winter Break • | 3 School Resumes | 4 | 5 | 6 Benson & Franzen - Hot Lunch | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Chess Club 3:25-4:25 Vision & Hearing screening for Kindergarten, Pre-K, E.C. & NDSEC students | 10 Art Class 3:25- 4:25 K-Prep Round Up 1:00-2:00 PM @ Benson | 11 Brd of Ed Mtg 7:00pm | 12 Market Day pickup 5:30-6:30 PM @ Itasca Park District | 13 End of 2nd Quarter | 14 |
| 15 | 16 District Closed No School - Martin Luther King Day IEPTO Benson & Franzen Skate Party 10:00-11:30 AM @ The Edge in Bensenville | 17 Art Class 3:25-4:25 K-Prep Registration 8:00 AM @ Benson | 18 | 19 IEPTO Benson/Franzen Culture Night @ Franzen | 20 Benson & Franzen - Hot Lunch Report Cards Distributed | 21 |
| IEPTO Sponsored Culture Week at Benson | | | | | | |
| 22 Mother/Son Bowling @ Stardust in Addison | 23 Chess Club 3:25-4:25 Kindergarten Prep Conferences 4:00-8:00 PM @ Benson | 24 Art Class 3:25-4:25 | 25 Kindergarten Prep P/T Conferences 8:30-11:30 AM @ Benson | 26 Early Childhood Parent/Teacher Conference 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM @ Benson IEPTO Mtg. 7:00 PM @ Franzen K-5 Principals' Advisory Committee Mtg 6:00 PM @ Franzen | 27 | 28 Mentor Celebration 10:30-12:00@ L.Park East Campus |
| Grades Pre-K-8 School Assessment Week and IEPTO Sponsored Culture Week at Franzen | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 Chess Club 3:25- 4:25 Vision & Hearing re-screening for Kindergarten, Pre-K, E.C. & NDSEC students | 31 Art Class 3:25-4:25 | <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.</p> <p>Please state your child's name, teacher's name and explain the type of illness or specific reason for absence.</p> <p>Sex offender information can be obtained @ www.itasca.com click on police department link.</p> | | | |
| Benson Primary School Assessment Week | | | | | | |

ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 N. MAPLE ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-1722
(630) 773-1232 Fax (630) 773-1342

January 2011

Dear Benson Primary Parents,

During the weeks of January 23-February 3, 2012, students in preschool through second grade will be taking the online assessment, Children's Progress. This assessment evaluates reading and math skills and will be taken during the school day in the computer lab during a 45-60 minute period.

Your child's Children's Progress results will be sent home to you during the week of February 6, 2012. Please feel free to contact me at 630-773-0554 should you have any questions regarding this assessment.

Sincerely,

Dawn Turner, Ed.D.
Principal, Benson Primary School



RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY
301 E. WASHINGTON ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-2159
(630) 773-0554
Fax (630) 285-7474

ELMER H. FRANZEN INTERMEDIATE
730 N. CATALPA ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-1465
(630) 773-0100
Fax (630) 285-7468

F.E. PEACOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
301 E. NORTH ST.
ITASCA, IL 60143-1620
(630) 773-0335
Fax (630) 285-7460

TO ALL BENSON PRIMARY PARENTS/GUARDIANS



Cold Weather is Here!

When weather permits, we will go outside with the students at noon recess.

Necessary cold weather clothing . . .

on any day includes: **winter coat, hat and gloves**

on any day when it snows: **winter coat, hat, gloves and boots**

to play in the snow: **winter coat, hat, gloves, boots, and snow pants**

Extra clothes at school:

Several times this school year, there have been children who have needed their parents to bring them a change of clothes for a variety of reasons. Therefore, we are requesting that you send a change of clothes for your child to keep in his/her locker. This should include pants, shirt, socks, and underwear all placed in a plastic bag. As with other items your child brings to school, it is important that you write your child's name in each item in case they are lost.

The temperature will be checked daily. If the temperature is **20 degrees** or below, the children **will not** go outside for recess.

If the temperature is above 20 degrees, per our student/parent handbook the children **will** have recess outdoors. We also use this guideline for lining up outside in the morning and afternoon.

**ALL CHILDREN WILL GO OUT TO RECESS UNLESS EXCUSED WITH A
NOTE FROM THEIR DOCTOR.**

.....

Don't Forget Your Gym Shoes

With cold and boot weather upon us, parents are reminded that students need to bring shoes to school. It is also important that students bring tennis shoes (not black soled) on physical education days.

Clothing Donations Welcome

We often have students that do not have additional clothing available to them when needed. If you have clothing or winter gear that you would like to donate to the school, please send it directly to the school office marked, "DONATION" Thank you!

2012-13 K-Prep Registration Information

Registration for the 2012-12 District #10 Kindergarten Preparation Program will take place for District #10 residents on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 8:00 a.m. at the following location:

**Benson Primary School
301 East Washington Street
Itasca, Illinois 60143
630-773-0554**

Children must reach the age of 4 on or before September 1, 2012 to be eligible for this preschool program. Registration is completed on a first come, first served basis. Classes are limited to a minimum of 17 and a maximum of 18 students in the Monday, Wednesday, Friday A.M. session. A minimum of 10 students and a maximum of 11 students will be accepted for the Monday, Wednesday, Friday P.M. session. All K-Prep programs are housed within Benson Primary School.

Two K-Prep options will be offered for the 2012-13 school year and are as follows:

- Option 1** Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:05 am-11:45 am
Option 2 Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:32-3:20 pm

Please bring the following with you on January 17, 2012:

- Driver's license or other proof of District #10 residency
- \$50.00 deposit (cash or check is acceptable, checks should be written out to Itasca School District #10)

Registration packets must be completed and returned to Benson Primary School by no later than May 14, 2012, as registration for the 2012-13 as the K-Prep Program closes by the end of that school day.

The tuition rate for option 1 is \$1700.00. The tuition rate for option 2 is \$1800.00. All tuition includes a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit. Tuition should be paid in full at registration or must be received as follows:

- \$50.00 at registration (non-refundable)
- Balance paid in full within 30 days of registration

K-Prep registration for residents outside of District #10 will open on
March 30, 2012

ROUND-UP AND SCREENING FOR PRESCHOOL

(Children 3-4 Years of Age)

PRESCHOOL ROUND-UP – January 10, 2012

Children reaching the age of 4 on or before September 1, 2012 are eligible to enroll in Itasca School District #10's preschool for the 2012-2013 school year. The district's preschool is referred to as the Kindergarten-Preparation class. Both Itasca District #10 residents and non-residents are eligible to enroll their children. However, because of the demand, registration will be open first to District #10 residents—from January 17th through March 30th, 2012. Thereafter, District #10 residents and non-residents may register.

To familiarize next year's preschool students and parents to the program, District #10 is offering a **Preschool Round-up on Tuesday, January 10th, 2012**. The Kindergarten-Preparation Round-Up will be held at Benson Primary School (301 E. Washington Street) in room #2. The Preschool Round-Up will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Preschool Round-Up is to familiarize the children with the classroom while interacting with the teacher. Also, parents will be provided with an overview of the program.

Again, please join us for this event. Please share this information with other families that you know this will affect. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Dawn Turner at the Benson Primary School office at (630) 773-0554, ext. 3030.

PRESCHOOL SCREENING – February 7, 2012

The purpose of the screening is to enable the school district to determine if a child needs assistance in the areas of speech and language, basic concepts, motor skills or hearing and vision. The school district provides programs to help students improve in areas of concern that appear during screening. Students should wear tennis shoes for the screening activities.

PLEASE CALL BENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 630-773-0554 FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION

*Please share this information regarding screenings with other families that you know this will affect.

REGISTRATION, PARENT ORIENTATION AND SCREENING FOR KINDERGARTEN

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING – February 29, 2012.

Itasca School District #10 will be having a **Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting in which registration forms for the 2012-2013 school year will be distributed and procedures will be reviewed.** The registration information is for children who will be entering kindergarten during the fall of 2012. The Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 29th, at Benson Primary School.** The evening begins with a tour at 6:00 p.m. followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. It is to be emphasized that Kindergarten Registration pertains to all students within Itasca School District #10 boundaries who are entering kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year. Age eligibility is determined by those children reaching the age of 5 on or before September 1, 2012. **The Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting is for parents only.**

An opportunity for children to become familiar with the school will be made available in **late August** at a **Kindergarten Meet & Greet.** More information will follow at a later date.

If you have a school-age kindergarten student for 2012-2013, we hope you will join us at the Benson Primary School Kindergarten Registration Meeting. Please share this information with other families that you know this will affect.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING – February 7th, 2012

Itasca District #10 will be conducting their annual Kindergarten Screening for children reaching the age of 5 on or before September 1, 2012. The Kindergarten screening for students entering kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year will be on February 7, 2012.

Students involved in this year's Kindergarten Screening should **ONLY** be those students who have not previously participated in District 10's screening opportunities in prior years or if parents have concerns about their child.

Children will be screened in the areas of speech and language, basic concepts, motor skills, hearing and vision. The school district provides programs to help students who need improvement in these areas. Call Benson Primary School at 630-773-0554 for an appointment. Children should wear tennis shoes to the Kindergarten Screening.

Kindergarten Screening is not a requirement for kindergarten.

REGISTRATION AND PARENT ORIENTATION FOR KINDERGARTEN

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING – February 29, 2012

Itasca School District #10 will be having a **Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting in which registration forms for the 2012-2013 school year will be distributed and procedures will be reviewed.** The registration information is for children who will be entering kindergarten during the fall of 2012. The Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 29, at Benson Primary School.** The evening begins with a tour at 6:00 p.m. followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. It is to be emphasized that Kindergarten Registration pertains to all students within Itasca School District #10 boundaries who are entering kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year. Age eligibility is determined by those children reaching the age of 5 on or before September 1, 2012. The **Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting is for parents only.**

An opportunity for children to become familiar with the school will be made available in **late August** at a **Kindergarten Meet & Greet.** More information will follow at a later date.

If you have a school-age kindergarten student for 2012-2013, we hope you will join us at the Benson Primary School Kindergarten Registration Meeting. Please share this information with other families that you know this will affect.

REGISTRATION FOR PRESCHOOL

Preschool Registration in District #10 January 17, 2012

Children reaching the age of 4 on or before September 1, 2012, are eligible to enroll in Itasca School District #10's preschool for the 2012-2013 school year. The district's preschool is referred to as the kindergarten-preparation class.

Both Itasca District #10 residents and non-residents are eligible to enroll their children. However, because of the demand, registration will be open first to District #10 residents from Tuesday, January 17, through Friday, March 30, 2012. Thereafter, District #10 residents and non-residents may register.

Preschool Registration will occur on Tuesday, January 17th at 8:00 a.m. at Raymond Benson Primary School, 301 E. Washington Street, Itasca, IL 60143

For more information, call the Benson School Office at 630-773-0554.



Early Childhood Chat

Congratulations to all of the Early Childhood and K-Prep friends for a wonderful Winter show. Thanks to all who donated time and volunteered their time to make the concert a hit!

While we prepared for our upcoming break, we finished up learning about ants and have begun reviewing the rules of the classroom. The children are going to be picking a new unit within the next week.

We are excited to hear about the fun they had with their families while they were on break. Send a story in with or without pictures for us to share with each other!

Thank you to the parents who volunteered for the party and planned the fun activities. We are excited to be back at school and back to work!

Welcome Back To School ~ The EC Staff

December News from K-Prep

The K-Prep students did such a great job at our Winter Performance! Our class survey showed that everyone in our room celebrates Christmas! We've spent the month getting ready for this holiday. I asked the students what their favorite part of Christmas is; these are some of their different answers:

- We get presents.
- Making my tree.
- Toys
- Decorations
- Candy
- I like when I put the angel on the tree.
- I like snowflakes, trees, and candy canes.
- I like the Christmas tree when we turn the light on.
- Train stuff
- I like to make snowmen.
- I like to plug in the tree.
- I like to play in the snow.
- Opening my presents.



KINDERGAREN NEWS

WOW, is it 2012 already!! During December we learned about the different holidays celebrated at that time of the year. We read stories, did projects and learned about the traditions of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

The language activities we focused on included the letter; Nn and we continued working on blending sounds to read and make words. The blends are at, am, and ap. Rhyming has also been a big part of our language activities. We are rhyming real and nonsense words, filling in a riddle with the missing rhyming word, and producing our own words that rhyme. Finally, we spent a lot of time producing the initial sounds of words. The students are not naming the letter; rather they are producing the sound they hear at the beginning of a word.

The main focus in math has been recognizing a ten frame, ordering numbers from 0-10, and learning to use the vocabulary greater/more and fewer/less when comparing numbers.

We are counting down the days to the 100th day of school!!



News from First Grade

The first graders have gotten back into the school routine very nicely.

We will be starting to learn about Solids and Liquids in Science. We will be learning about properties such as opaque and transparent.

The first graders have been working on the next basal - *Here and There*. Please keep up the great work at home of practicing the story/word wall words.

In Math, the first graders are working on Comparing and Ordering Numbers to 100. Our next chapter will be on Tens and Ones.

A little winter reminder, please remember to have the kids dress warmly. We try to get them outside as much as possible. When there is snow, the kids need to wear the proper clothes to be able to play in it (boots, hat, gloves, and snow pants). Along with going out and playing in the snow comes the possibility of wet clothes. Please make sure your child has an extra set of clothes and socks in his or her locker in case the need ever arises.

The end of the second quarter is upon us and the first grade team would like to thank each of you for your continued support of your first grader. Your help makes a world of difference.



News from Second Grade

Happy New Year! During the first part of January we will continue studying the theme "Our World" in the basal series. Towards the end of January, we will start a new theme called, "Imagine That!", which has stories that reveal how imagination and creativity help people solve problems and express ideas.

Speaking of solving problems, we'll be solving subtraction problems with regrouping in math this month. Then, we'll be exploring place value to 1,000.

Our exploration doesn't stop there. We'll be studying matter/energy and magnets in science. We will be busy investigating heat energy and the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. Then like busy little bees we'll move on to magnets. We'll investigate the parts of a magnet, what magnets are, what's attracted to them, etc. When we are finished experimenting with magnets, we will discuss our muscles in health and how they work together with the rest of our skeleton.



Finally, in writing, we will implement the 6+1 Trait known as Sentence Fluency. This refers to the flow and rhythm of writing. We'll practice writing sentences of varying lengths and reading them aloud to hear the fluency.

Keep up the great work in 2012!

Save the date!

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

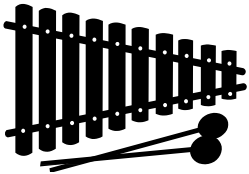


Friday, February 3, 2011

Benson Primary School Gym

Look for specific times to be posted soon!

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



What is an informance?

An informance is a performance that informs parents and audience members about grade-level curriculum, daily music activities, and specific subject content that was addressed by a piece of music. Its name is derived from a combination of “**information**,” “**informal**,” and “**performance**.”

News From the Art Room

Welcome back from Winter Break! The first graders are learning the similarities and differences between circles and ovals and will be using this to create their own “Snovals”. By using several different materials, including paper, fabric, buttons, and other decorative items, our first graders will create charming one of a kind characters that share the characteristics of snowmen. Soon after, they will be reading “The Legend of the Bluebonnet” by Tomie dePaola. We will discuss the bluebonnet flower, which this story is focused on, and by using stitching and appliqué techniques we will create our own fiber collage. We will also use finger-printing techniques to add a personal *touch* to our “Bluebonnets”.

The second graders have discovered printmaking techniques, as well as radial designs, and have finished their superb looking “Poinsettia Prints”! They will soon begin experimenting with clay and will begin to create their own sculptures by learning how to pinch the clay into hollow spheres, as well as connecting clay bodies together using the score and slip method. They will put the finishing touch on their “Pinch Pot Animals” by adding several layers of glossy glaze.

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

Resolve to stick to good reading habits

January is the perfect time to assess your child's reading habits and progress. It may be time to increase the level or variety of her reading materials. To help your child restructure her reading habits:

- **Schedule regular reading time.** Try to be realistic about how often and for how long you can set aside time. Three evenings a week for 10 to 15 minutes would be a great start!
- **Introduce advanced materials slowly.** Read them together so you can help when your child might have difficulty or questions.
- **Encourage and reward more reading.** Set new goals and help your child reach them.
- **Lead by example.** Show your child how much you enjoy your reading time and she'll look forward to it as much as you do.



"Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year."

—Horace Mann

Reading games can grow with your child

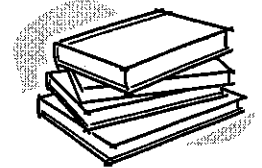
No matter what grade your child is in, he can still enjoy reading activities. Each of the following games is based on research about learning to read. Your child can:

- **"Say it fast" in kindergarten.** Start by saying a word slowly to your child, emphasizing each part. "S—uh—n." Then have him say it fast. "Sun!"
- **"Say it slowly" in first grade.** Now say a word quickly. "Stall!" Can your child say it slowly? "S—t—ah—ll."
- **"Speed read" in second grade.** Have your child read for one minute and mark his spot. Then he can attempt to increase his speed in subsequent readings.
- **Read to others in fourth grade and beyond.** Suggest that your child read to parents and siblings. Encourage him to ask them questions about the book.

Source: "For Parents," Florida Center for Reading Research, www.fcrr.org/Curriculum/curriculumForParents.shtm.

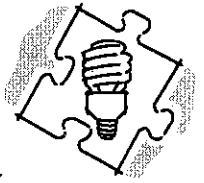
Start at the library to promote your child's responsibility this year

Regular library visits are opportunities to encourage reading and responsibility. If your child is ready, allow him to get a library card and check out materials. Help him note due dates and return items on time. At home, take good care of library books, CDs and other items. When your child returns them on time, he can check out new ones. If he's late, discuss the consequences, which may include fines.



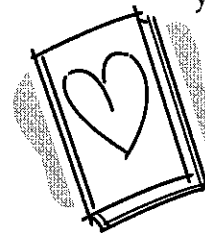
International Reading Association lets kids, experts recommend books

Having trouble finding a good book for your child? The International Reading Association can help. Visit www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists.aspx. There you'll find "Choices" book lists. They include ideas from educators and children!



Consider the characters' feelings

Reading a book isn't necessarily the same as *understanding* a book. To help your child understand main characters, suggest that she make a "mood chart." Have her write down two details from each chapter: 1) The main character's mood and 2) Why the main character felt that way. Notice how the character's mood changes throughout the book.



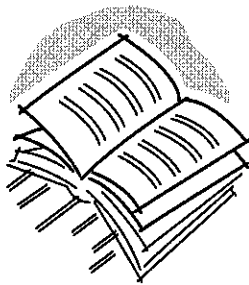
Source: J. Fowler and S. Newlon, *Quick & Creative Reading Response Activities*, Scholastic.

Nonfiction reading prepares your child for textbook success

When reading with your child, do you tend to pick fiction books? Many parents do. But reading nonfiction is important, too. Studies show that familiarity with nonfiction books:

- **Builds** skills needed to read textbooks.
- **Prepares** kids to use reading skills in real-life situations.
- **Shows** that reading nonfiction can be pleasant.
- **Boosts** knowledge about the world, which helps with future learning.
- **Motivates** kids to read, since their interests and questions are being addressed.
- **Improves** vocabulary in ways that reading fiction may not, especially when parents or teachers read aloud.

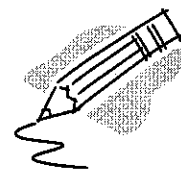
Source: "6 Reasons to Use Informational Text in Primary Grades," Scholastic Inc., www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/6-reasons-use-informational-text-primary-grades.



Keep track of reading hours

How much does your child read? Both of you might be surprised by the answer!

1. **Use** a journal to keep track of her reading activities.
2. **Note** what your child reads—books, articles, recipes, etc. Write down the date, the title of what she read, and how much time she spent reading.
3. **Tally** the hours at regular intervals (such as daily, weekly and monthly). In December, add up how much she read in 2012. You're sure to be impressed!



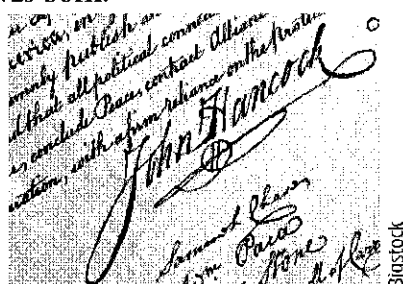
Handwriting Day celebrates the 'write' stuff

January 23 is National Handwriting Day. That's because on January 23, 1737, John Hancock was born.

According to the legend, Hancock had problems with writing as a youth. The ink from his quill pen was always dripping and creating a mess. After many years of practice, he became more proficient—as seen in his signature on the Declaration of Independence.

To help your child celebrate his own penmanship, have him:

- **Practice his signature.** See if he can add flourishes to his letters, like John Hancock did.
- **Choose a favorite saying** from Ben Franklin or another famous person to write in his best handwriting. Encourage him to use script. Post the saying in your home.
- **Read a book** written in "handwriting" like Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*—or ask your librarian for other suggestions.



Bigstock

For lower elementary readers:

- **Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion** by Mo Willems (Balzer + Bray). Favorite stuffed animal Knuffle Bunny is accidentally on a plane to China! How brave can his owner Trixie be?
- **Bear's Loose Tooth** by Karma Wilson (McElderry). See what happens when Bear loses his first tooth.



For upper elementary readers:

- **Eight Keys** by Suzanne LaFleur (Wendy Lamb Books). When they start middle school, two kids had no idea how their lives would change.
- **Hothead** by Cal Ripken, Jr. and Kevin Cowherd (Hyperion). Connor loves baseball, but his temper puts his hobby at risk. In order to win, he must overcome his anger.



Q: My child's teacher says we should work on "sight words" at home. What does this mean?

A: Sight words are written words that readers see often, such as *I, me, dog, open* and *school*. Becoming familiar with them is important because it makes reading much easier. Ask your child's teacher

for a list of sight words. Then use homemade flash cards (with simple pictures at first, if you wish) to practice reading them.

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

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Publisher: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Jennifer McGovern.

Writer: Susan O'Brien.

Copyright © 2012, The Parent Institute® (a division of NIS, Inc.)

P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525, ISSN: 1531-4901

www.parent-institute.com