



LIT BITS

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December 2003

An Invitation... Feature You and Your Child in a Video

As described in the October issue of Lit Bits, a Martha Jennings Foundation Grant has been awarded to support a project intended to design, produce and distribute a "family" literacy video and "portable lending libraries" of additional texts and reading resources to families in CH-UH.

The Family Literacy Video will consist of many video clips. Each clip will include an adult and a child reading together. The various reading and writing stages of development will be represented so that similarities/differences in the stages and the wide range of texts can be addressed. The hope is that the clips will be informative and used as models for reading and writing interactions with children in varying environments.

Volunteers will be needed. ***We are looking for parents or caregivers that have a child whose age is from birth to grade 5. The two of you will be videotaped engaging in a successful reading experience. The commitment would include a videotaping session on a Saturday in February.***

If you are interested in volunteering to possibly *Be a Star in the Video* with your child, please contact Kay Milkie, Program Specialist-Literacy, via district email. You may also contact Helen Hirsch at 216-320-2223.



Boulevard's Banner

"Books and Breakfast" is off to a great start at Boulevard's Before School Program. Mrs. Ghazarian meets with a group of seven third graders every Thursday morning. The group is working on reading and recognizing non-fiction materials. ("Books and Breakfast" is also operating in full swing at Oxford and Fairfax!)

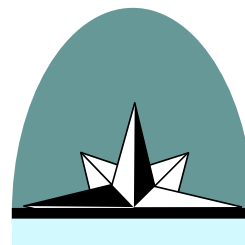
Kindergarten classes participated in a phonological rhyming activity when Cookie Monster came to visit them in November.

At November's Staff Meeting, Mrs. Ghazarian gave a presentation to support the implementation of Ohio ELA Standards. Ms. Chapman provided her teachers with ELA flip booklets. These nifty resources help teachers see at their fingertips the indicators that correspond with each ELA indicator by grade level.

"Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand."
Chinese proverb

Reading Specialists Review Non-Fiction Instructional Materials

On Tuesday afternoon, December 9th, Title teachers and Board Supported Reading Specialists/Resource Teachers collaborated to study non-fiction leveled books. The goal was to recommend titles that best matched with the ELA standards indicators. Relevant indicators in science and social studies were also explored as they reviewed materials.



LITERACY DATES

**Palm Training-
Title-1/13/04
2:00-4:30-Taylor**

**Dibels Training
1/20/04
Reading Specialists
8:00-3:30-Taylor
(1/27 Reading Teacher
Meeting is cancelled)**

**Grade 1 and Grade 2
Teachers
"Differentiated
Instruction"
1/26/04-Taylor
Grade 2-AM, Grade 1
PM**

**Grade 6 Language Arts
1/28/04
12:30-3:30-Taylor**





Leveled Book Collections by Libby Larrabee

Children need many opportunities with books in order to become proficient readers. Schools provide these opportunities for interactions with books in three ways:

- the school library,
- the classroom library,
- the leveled book collection.

The school and classroom libraries provide opportunities for independent reading and should contain a wide variety of fiction and informational books, poetry, and magazines.

The leveled book collection supports small group, teacher-guided reading instruction. "A leveled book collection is a large set of books organized by level of difficulty – from very easy books appropriate for emergent readers to longer, more complex books for advanced readers in the intermediate grades." (Fountas & Pinnell, *Matching Books to Readers*, p. 15).

Books are placed into levels by considering the characteristics of the text that support and challenge the readers. Typically, classroom teachers organize and maintain the leveled collection and it is housed in a closet or small bookroom. Teachers borrow copies of leveled books from the book room to support instruction in each of their

small reading groups.

Some of the advantages of having a book room with a leveled collection of text are:

- It is more economical and cost effective because teachers share the books.
- There can be a wider variety of titles at each level when books are shared.
- A collaborative community develops as teachers share decisions in replacing worn titles and adding new ones.
- All teachers become aware of the full range of books being read across the grades.
- The book collection becomes an integral part of ongoing assessment.

Plans for book rooms to house leveled book collections are underway in all CHUH elementary schools. It takes several years to build the collection. A good collection will have over 1,000 titles.

Leveled book collections as well as school and classroom libraries will provide our students with the wide variety of experiences needed for successful literacy acquisition.

Coventry Kindergarteners Have Fun Playing a Game Using Beginning Sounds



“Books and Breakfast” Readers at Oxford



Oxford Leveled Book Collection



Gearity Gossip

Ms. Renee Harrison and Carol Ghazarian are going to be giving a presentation on Tuesday, December 9 at Gearity. They will be meeting with parents to give them an overview of Ohio’s English Language Arts Standards. Ms. Harrison and Mrs. Ghazarian will then have breakout sessions where parents can learn how to help their children meet Ohio’s academic standards for reading and writing.

Ms. Kropveld’s class wrote a class book on *The Hungry Thing*.

Noble’s News

On November 19, Joan Sevis, author of *Celebrating the Fourth*, came to visit Noble School. She provided interactive classroom writing workshops. She demonstrated the difference between book reports and book reviews. Students at Noble are busy writing book reviews.

Mrs. Fernald’s class had another Author’s Tea on December 5, 2003.

Ms. Beers and Mrs. Ghazarian sent out literacy questionnaires to the teachers. Based on the results of the questionnaires, Ms. Beers and Mrs. Ghazarian are going to give mini-skills workshops at 8:15 on Wednesday mornings.

Proficiency Progress

The results of this fall's administration of the 4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test reveal that 45% of our fourth graders were proficient. This percent includes all students with disabilities who took the test. This compares to 42% of students proficient in fall of 2002. Several schools showed an increase in percent of students performing at a proficient level. One of our District goals is to narrow the gap between ethnic groups. The gap between the performance of African American and White students has decreased from fall of 2002. Many thanks to all who have helped our students to be successful. All students who performed at the proficient or below level will take the reading test again on Wednesday, March 10, 2004.



Performance Standards Set for 3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test

by Karen Frantz



The State Board of Education has adopted performance standards for the 3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test.

Raw Score out of 49 points	Performance Level	Scale Score
24 and below	Limited	384 and below
25	Basic	385
332	Proficient	400
38	Accelerated	415
42	Advanced	432

All third grade students who performed at the accelerated level or below will take the reading test again on Wednesday, March 10, 2004.

3rd Grade "STARS" Light December Sky

by Karen Frantz



The 3rd Grade "STARS" (Supporting Teachers Around Standards) met in December. This month's topic focus was science. Standards and outcomes were compared. Karen Wilson shared best practices from the 3rd grade curriculum. Karen Rego presented cross curricula ideas connecting science, reading, and research. Sharon Riley highlighted great interactive science websites. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 12, 2004 from 3:45-5:15 at Canterbury School. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We look forward to your participation.

More Dates to Remember

- Wed. Dec. 17 12:30—3:45 p.m. (Taylor)
3rd Grade Writing
Rubric Workshop
- Thurs., Jan. 8 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Oxford Family Proficiency
Night
- Tues., Jan. 13 3:30—5:30 p.m. (Taylor)
4th Grade Teachers'
Proficiency Network
- Wed., Jan. 14 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Gearity Family Proficiency
Night

Young Achievers' Academy Expanded!

The Young Achievers' Academy has been expanded thanks to an intervention grant from the State of Ohio. This year third and fourth grade students will attend a special intervention program on Saturday mornings. This free eight week program will begin on Saturday, January 17, 2004 and will end on Saturday, March 6. Students will receive instruction in math and reading. Transportation will be provided from each elementary school to Wiley Middle School. Classes begin at 8:30 and will conclude at 11:30 a.m. Classes will be taught by CH-UH teachers.

Additionally, an after school program will be offered for first and second graders twice a week. This program called Heights Cub Club will run for twelve weeks from January 26th through the end of April. These sessions will be dedicated to reading intervention with groups of five students. Three sessions per building may be offered depending on the needs of the individual buildings.



CANTERBURY TALES

Friday, December 5, Canterbury had a "Read Around the World Day" and Kick-Off Day for their Ohio Reads Continuation Grant. Hats off to Judy Davis for coordinating the program and getting thirty-one volunteers to read aloud to Canterbury children. Hats off to April Wesley for obtaining volunteers for the Ohio Reads Continuation Grant. Many thanks to Serena Houston-Edwards and Barbra Finnemore for making "Read Around the World Day" possible.

LIT BITS is a monthly publication produced by program specialists committed to promoting literacy.

Fairfax

Fairfax's Literacy Team is getting geared up to work with the entire staff. Plans are in the works for a book area with non-fiction materials to be used in the classrooms as well as having the literacy specialists help set up classroom literacy centers. Development of standards based literacy activities for learning the ELA standards will be emphasized with the staff.

Mrs. Hertz's second graders have begun using strategies that Tony Stead presented at the District In-service on November 7th. The students will be using mind mapping for prewriting activities and will focus on main ideas and details. Later they will take this information and begin writing paragraphs about each main idea and continue to finish their piece into publication.

Title I reading students will have an opportunity to do some creative writing at home with Curious George. They will have a chance to borrow Curious George and a camera to take home for a few days and then write about what they did together. All of the experiences will be put together into a book for the students to enjoy.



ROX EL SPOTLIGHT

Primary-level classroom and reading teachers gathered together on Tues., Nov. 11th from 2:30-5:00 to participate in the "Make-it and Take-it" Learning Center Workshop. Teachers came prepared to make learning center tasks and Kelli Cogan came prepared with pizza and pop. Materials such as file folders, scissors, markers, glue, tongue depressors, cardstock, and plastic containers were available. Even the T.V. was set up for entertainment! The laminator was turned on and the work began. Teachers enjoyed the sharing of ideas and the time to create new center tasks for students.