

Chaffee Trail Newsletter

Duval County Public Schools

October 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

Building Your Child's Vocabulary By: Reading Rockets

Talking to and reading with your child are two terrific ways to help them hear and read new words. Conversations and questions about interesting words are easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday talk. Here are some ideas to get you started.

All parents want their child to do well in school. One way to help your child is to help them build their vocabulary. Beginning readers use knowledge about words to help them make sense of what they're reading. The more words a reader knows, the more they are able to comprehend what they're reading. The more words a reader knows, the more they are able to comprehend what they're listening to. Talking to and reading with your child are two terrific ways to help them hear and read new words. Conversations and questions about interesting words. ("The book says, 'The boy **tumbled** down the hill' and look at the picture! How do you think he went

down the hill") are easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday talk.

Sharing a new word with your child doesn't have to take long: Just a few minutes to talk about the word and then focus back on the book or conversation. Choose which words to talk about carefully—choosing every new word might make reading seem like a chore. The best words to explore with your child are ones that are common among adult speakers but less common to see in the books your child might read.

When introducing new words to your learner, keep the following helpful hints in mind:

1. First, provide a simple, kid friendly definition for the new word: **Enormous** means that something is really, really big.
2. Second, provide a simple, kid friendly example that makes sense within their daily life.

3. Third, encourage your child to develop their own example: What **enormous** thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tires were huge.
4. Lastly, keep your new words active within your house over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary word in conversation.

Take time to share new words and build your child's vocabulary. You'll be **enormously** glad you did!

www.readingrockets.org



Volunteer Applications On-Line

To ensure the safety of our students, volunteers must complete an application and undergo a criminal background screening, free of charge, conducted by Duval schools Community Partners department. Duval County is no longer using volunteer cards as proof of clearance. Designated school staff will verify your clearance to volunteer/chaperon at the school using our online service. The website below will allow you to access the on-line volunteer application. Please allow a two week turn around for the application process.

<http://www.duvalschools.org/static/offcampus/volunteer/>

October Calendar

October 5 Early Release

October 6 Read for the Record—Kindergarten National Reading Program

October 12 Hearing Screening

October 14 Picture day

October 19 Early Dismissal

October 24-28 Red Ribbon Week

October 27 Character Parade

October 28 Teacher Planning Day

Future Dates :

November 2 & 16 Early Dismissal

November 11 Veterans Day- No School

November 23 and 28 Weather day No School

November 24-25 Thanksgiving Break— No School

First Nine Weeks Awards Program

November 8th

4th Grade- 8:45

5th Grade - 9:30

3rd Grade - 1:30

November 9th

1st Grade - 8:45

2nd Grade - 9:30

Kindergarten

At this point, most of the students are reading pictures in books. This is a form of reading. As your child reads the pictures, he/she is creating the dialogue for the book. Your child can also listen to a story and practice his/her comprehension skills by retelling what has happened in the story. Comprehension is a very important reading skill that gets better with practice. We have started learning a letter a week. We're learning the sound it makes and thinking of words beginning with that letter. In writing, Kindergarten children will start with drawing pictures and then label-

ing the things in their pictures. They can then move on to sentences, first drawing a picture of what they like or don't like about a familiar activity, event, or story, and then writing a sentence that states their opinion. In math, we are continuing to practice number recognition and counting everyday! The following are ways you can help out at home. Have your child count as high as you can. Have them practice writing numbers. Look around the house. They can count anything and everything around them (socks, pencils, doors, toys, etc). Be sure your child points to each item as they count

it! As a bonus, they can draw a picture of what they counted and label each item with its number.

If you plan on chaperoning future fieldtrips or volunteering with us this school year please complete the online application by going to Duval County School homepage, click on Community and then Volunteer Information.



First Grade

We are half way through this first nine weeks, and we are sure you are already beginning to see how much your child will learn in first grade this year! Students are busy building their reading stamina by reading every day both in school and at home. We are growing some amazing authors already this year as we “dig” into our narrative writing genre. Students are learning about snappy beginnings to their stories as well as including LOTS of details in their writing. Encourage your student to

write at home to build the skills he/she needs to be a great writer! In Math we have been focusing on comparing numbers up to 100. We are moving into patterns over the next few weeks. You can help at home by practicing skip counting with your child: counting by 10's, 5's and 2's! In science we have been observing the properties of matter. Thank you for your continued support at home and KEEP READING!!

“Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.”

~Anna Quindlen

Second Grade

Happy Fall second grade parents!!! We are excited and looking forward to all of the fun activities and new learning that this season brings. In reading and writing we are continuing our Vera B. Williams author study. Your children are learning strategies to develop deep comprehension and to respond to literature written by other writers. They will also have the opportunity to celebrate characters from favorite books during our Book Character parade at the end of the month. Start planning those costumes now! In math, we are continuing to go further into number sense. This will include place value, number comparisons and order, addition and subtrac-

tion strategies, and problem solving. In science, we will be investigating the life cycle of plants and weather and how it effects the world around us. One way to support your child this month is to share books and information about these science topics and discuss the meaning of these texts. Children love non-fiction books and much of what they are expected to read for comprehension testing comes from non-fiction passages. Have a wonderful October!!!!



Third Grade

Third grade is off to a blossoming start this school year. Open House was a huge success; thank you for coming out, parents, grandparents, and students. In September 3rd grade is digging into learning in math by continuing with place value, representing numbers, and operations. We have already seen the reward of parents helping with homework, thank you. Also, we are collecting data from the district's benchmark test.

Which provides information about current reading and math proficiency. In science the classes are observing seeds and learning the importance of the four major parts of a plant. In Social Studies we will be learning about communities, community helpers, and where we live. Reading Skills include cause and effect as well as predicting and inferring using many resources. We are collecting data through the district's benchmark

and FAIR . In writing, students are beginning to create their own unique narrative to share. Don't forget to



Fourth Grade

Fourth grade would first like to thank you all for the large turn out at Open House! Your support means so much! We are continuing to learn about narratives or creative stories. We have been reading several texts by multiple authors in order to study their style/ crafts and gather examples for our own writing. In reading we are learning about text structure and ways to identify an author's

viewpoint. At this point you should have seen your child bring home the requirements for completing the 25 Book Campaign. Please make sure that they are reading nightly in an independent book that is appropriate for their reading level. In math we are continuing our lessons on Numeration. We are learning how to estimate and round large numbers that expand into the millions period. We will

be starting lessons related to rocks and minerals in science. The students will learn how rocks are formed and how to classify them using their properties. Don't forget to apply online to become a parent volunteer!



Fifth Grade

We are doing a genre study of Tall Tales. Students are learning about the elements of a tall tale, figurative language often used in tall tales, and will eventually be writing their own tall tale. We will be reading the Book of the Quarter, The Happiness Tree, and writing responses to the book. We will also begin using the Super Six reading strategies as highlighted in the Read It Forward Jax campaign.

Making Connections (August/Sept.) is one strategy to improve reading comprehension. It is important for students to understand the concept of activating prior knowledge if they are to succeed in this strategy. Making connections is wonderful as it makes the reader active in the reading process. Please remember to check your child's reading log each day.

In math we will finish up working with multi-digit division. After that we will

be working with fractions and decimals. In science, we will work with energy and continuing the scientific method in our classroom experiments





Duval County Public Schools

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Chaffee Trail Vision

- Engage Students in Meaningful Work
- Empower Them to Become Responsible for Their Own Learning, so that they
- Excel as Productive Citizens



See Mrs. Doyle to get your Login and Password for OnCourse Parent Portal. This Portal will allow you to check your child's attendance, grades, and teacher's classroom website.

693-7510