

February 2010

Educational E-News

School Liaison Newsletter



READ ACROSS AMERICA

The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its fourteenth year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources.



NEA's Read Across America Day

NEA's national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

On March 2, the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult.

Read Across America on SchoolTube

SchoolTube has created a Read Across America channel designed to showcase student and educator videos from around the country. To sign up and share your videos, go to:

www.schooltube.com/user/NEAreadacrossamerica

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National Holidays:

February 15th:

PRESIDENT'S DAY

March 2nd:

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Local SL installation calendars:

MCAGCC 29Palms:

www.29palms.usmc.mil/visit/schoolliaison

MCAS Yuma:

http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/Webmodel/MFS/School_Liaison/Schoolliaison.html

MWTC Bridgeport:

<http://www.mwtc.usmc.mil/schoolliaison/>

Valentine's Day Mailbox Craft

Does your child need a creative and inexpensive way to collect Valentine's Day cards this year? Try making this great conversation heart mailbox.

What you'll need:

- *Cereal box; *Construction paper: red, blue, white and pink;
- *Glitter glue: blue, pink, purple, orange, red; *White craft glue;
- *Scissors; *Heart-shaped cookie cutter (optional); and
- *Heart-shaped craft foam



How to make it:

1. Cut cereal box in half, keeping the bottom half. Reserve the remaining cardboard for another project.
2. Cover the entire box with red construction paper using white craft glue.
3. Trace cookie cutters, or draw freehand, to create hearts from blue, white and pink construction paper. You will need two of each color for a total of six.
4. Use glitter glue to write short phrases or acronyms on the hearts. Some examples might include "kiss me," "BFF (best friends forever)," "luv you," "hug me," "be mine," and "cutie."
5. Allow the glitter glue to dry completely, this can take several hours.
6. Glue three hearts, one of each color, to one side of the box, overlapping the hearts, tops of the hearts should stick out above the top of the box. Repeat on the other side. Glue foam hearts to the sides of the box.



Scrambled Presidents:

Here are 10 Scrambled Presidents. Unscramble the words to reveal the last name of one of our presidents!

ANOTWSIGNH
MAABO

SODAMIN
OSELROVTE
RSNJEEFOF

NNDYEEK
GNRAAE
MASDA

SHBU
LLCOINN

Answers found on Page #6



WEB RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: [Book Adventure.com](http://www.bookadventure.com)

WHAT: Book Adventure is a FREE reading motivation program for children

WHERE: www.bookadventure.org

WHO: All children in grades k-8

HOW: Children create their own book lists from over 7,000 recommended titles, take multiple choice quizzes on the books they've read, and earn points and prizes for their literary successes. Book Adventure was created by and is maintained by Sylvan Learning.

The Five Essential Components of Reading

by Tessa LaPresto, School Liaison MTWC Bridgeport

Reading with children and helping them practice specific reading components can dramatically improve their ability to read. Scientific research shows that there are five essential components of reading that children must be taught in order to learn to read. Adults can help children learn to be good readers by systematically practicing these five components:



Recognizing and using individual sounds to create words, or **phonemic awareness**. Children need to be taught to hear sounds in words and that words are made up of the smallest parts of sound, or phonemes.

Tip: I've granted my kids' stuffed animals with magic phonemic powers. For example, Bear can rhyme very well and just loves to play rhyming games, Kitty Kitty always mixes up the words in their favorites songs and rhymes (Itsy Bitsy Elephant, Mary Had a Little Chicken, etc.), and Iggy the Iguana likes to break words into syllables to see how many are in each word.

Understanding the relationships between written letters and spoken sounds, or **phonics**. Children need to be taught the sounds individual printed letters and groups of letters make. Knowing the relationships between letters and sounds helps children to recognize familiar words accurately and automatically, and "decode" new words.

Tip: A simple family favorite is our version of the alphabet game: We each take turns saying a word that belongs with each letter of the alphabet. As the children improve, then we make up categories like "something you see right now" or "foods". It's basic, but it reinforces the connection between individual sounds and letters (and it helps get us through those long drives to town.)

Developing the ability to read a text accurately and quickly, or reading **fluency**. Children must learn to read words rapidly and accurately in order to understand what is read. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. When fluent readers read aloud, they read effortlessly and with expression. Readers who are weak in fluency read slowly, word by word, focusing on decoding words instead of comprehending meaning.

Tip: Fluency requires a child to have mastered some sight words and be able to decode effectively. So, fluency must be practiced using material that a child knows well. Select short, interesting readings that your child likes enough to read several times to practice fluency both aloud and silently. Also, a good way to improve fluency is to model it often for a child. Make sure he is reading along with the words as you are reading aloud.

Learning the meaning and pronunciation of words, or **vocabulary** development. Children need to actively build and expand their knowledge of written and spoken words, what they mean and how they are used.

Tip: I like to plant "vocabulary seeds" in my kids. Purposefully use words that you think are new to your child, then don't forget to feed and water everyone once in a while by reusing. Point them out while reading or watching movies occasionally. He said that the car had to swerve to avoid the deer. What does that mean?

Acquiring strategies to understand, remember and communicate what is read, or reading **comprehension** strategies. Children need to be taught comprehension strategies, or the steps good readers use to make sure they understand text. Students who are in control of their own reading comprehension become purposeful, active readers.

Tip: Stop periodically and ask about pictures and what is happening in the story. Ask your child to predict what he thinks may happen next. Be careful not to do this so often that it disrupts the flow of the story.



Fifteen-Minute Reading Activities

by the National PTA

Make 15 minutes go a long way. Try these quick [reading](#) activities with your younger kids.

1. **License to read.** On [car trips](#), make it a game to point out and read license plates, billboards, and interesting road signs.
2. **Better than TV.** [Swap evening TV](#) for a good action story or tale of adventure.
3. **Look and listen.** Too tired to read aloud? Listen to a [book on tape](#) and turn the book's pages with your children. You'll still be reading with them!
4. **Labels, labels, labels.** Label things in your children's room as they learn to name them. Have [fun while they learn](#) that written words are connected to everyday things.
5. **Pack a snack, pack a book.** Going someplace where there might be a long wait? Bring along a snack and a bag of favorite books.
6. **Recipe for reading.** The next time you cook with your children, read the recipe with them. Step-by-step instructions, [ingredients](#), and measurements are all part of words in print!
7. **Shop and read.** Notice and read signs and labels in the supermarket. Back home, putting away groceries is another great time for reading labels.
8. **Your long-distance lap.** Away on a business trip? Take a few books with you, call home, and have your child curl up by the phone for a [good night story](#).
9. **A reading pocket.** Slip fun things to read into your pocket to bring home: a comic strip from the paper, a greeting card, or even a fortune cookie from lunch. Create a special, shared moment your child can look forward to every day.
10. **A little longer?** When your child asks to stay up a little longer, say yes and make it a 15-minute [family reading](#) opportunity.

Bonus item! Find more [reading ideas](#) from parents like yourself.

Bulletin Board Items:

❖ UNITED THROUGH READING

With the help from the nonprofit organization United Through Reading, deployed service members can make DVDs or videotapes of themselves reading aloud to send home. This means a child at home can still feel the connection and pleasure of being read to even when a parent (or older brother or sister) is away. Go to www.unitedthroughreading.org for more information about the program.

❖ DEPLOYING THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

Is there any chance someone other than your spouse will care for your children, even temporarily, while you are gone? **If so, please get a specific education power of attorney and file it with the school district.** Taking care of this before you leave, can reduce problems for your children left behind.

❖ SOAR

Check out the new website www.soarathome.com. This site will allow parents to administer standardized tests aligned to the area you will be going. This will give you an idea about how well your child is prepared for the new system and offers tutorials to help support weak areas. Also, you can take your results from the Princeton Review to the new school to help them make placement decisions according to your children's abilities and needs. It is a wonderful FREE resource for military families.

MCEC's: Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship

The Space Camp is a six-day program that shows young men and women firsthand what it takes to be an astronaut. Activities include simulated Space Shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments, and lectures of the past, present, and future of space exploration.

Space Camp is offered in Huntsville, Alabama, and takes a unique, fun and hands-on approach to learning outside the classroom – and students leave with a greater appreciation for school and their studies. Each child learns about astronauts and space travel, but they also experience something even more important: developing bonds of friendship.

For more detailed information about Space Camp, visit their web site at www.spacecamp.com.

Scholarship Information

The Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp scholarship is funded by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC). The scholarship covers full tuition to include:

- Round trip transportation (from student's home base to Space Camp)
- Meals
- Lodging
- Program Materials

Eligibility Requirements

Each student applicant must:

- Be a child of an Active Duty Military parent or activated Guard or Reservist
- Be enrolled in grades 6 through 9
- Submit a hand-written essay which includes why he or she should be selected, evidence of patriotism, future goals, community service, and "after camp" intentions
- Submit two letters of recommendation with contact information
- Complete and submit the application by the deadline

Deadline to apply: **MARCH 10, 2010.**



Scholarship Opportunities:

❖ MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation strongly supported nationally by volunteers. Their mission is to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships for higher education to deserving sons and daughters of Marines and children of former Marines, with particular attention being given to children whose parent was killed or wounded in action. Applications are available at www.mcsf.org.

❖ CHILDREN OF THE FALLEN SOLDIERS RELIEF FUND

The CFSRF was founded to help support surviving US Military children who have lost a parent in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars by providing them with College Grants. Applications will be available at www.childrenoffallensoldiersrelieffund.org

SL Contact Info:

- ❖ MCAGCC Twentynine Palms:
Website: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/visit/schoolliaison/>
phone: 760.830.1574
- ❖ MWTC Bridgeport:
Web site: <http://www.mwtc.usmc.mil/school-liaison/>
Phone: 760-932-1521 (MWTC Bridgeport)/ 760-784-4548 (Coleville)
- ❖ MCAS Yuma:
Web site: http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/Webmodel/MFS/School_Liaison/Schoolliaison.html
Phone: (928) 269-5373

We want to wish you
a very
Happy Valentine's Day!
Tina, Tessa & Elena



FEBRUARY Is Dental Health Month

It's a time when teachers help students become more aware of good dental hygiene and tooth care.

Daily brushing keeps the teeth clean, stimulates the gums and keeps the gums firm. Children should brush their teeth immediately after eating, to remove food particles. If a person cannot brush his teeth after eating, they should rinse their mouth thoroughly with water. Cavities are holes caused by decay in teeth. Teeth tend to decay on surfaces that touch because it is difficult to clean between teeth with a toothbrush. Thin, strong thread called [dental floss](#) is used to clean between the teeth.



How to Brush:

1. Hold the brush with the bristles pointing toward the gums.
2. Move the brush so it sweeps over the gums and teeth toward the biting surfaces
3. Brush the teeth of each jaw separately - the upper teeth downward, the lower teeth upward.
4. Use a scrubbing motion to clean the chewing surfaces.
5. Brush the inner as well as out surfaces.



Answers to Scrambled Presidents:

WASHINGTON
MADISON
KENNEDY
BUSH
OBAMA
ROOSEVELT
REAGAN
LINCOLN
JEFFERSON
ADAMS



Do what you have, with what you have, where you are.

– Theodore Roosevelt