



Reading Tips for Families: Title 1

Kathie Morrocco, Pierce School Reading Specialist

“FALL”ing for Reading

Welcome back to school everyone! It's amazing that we are already here, thinking about the crisp weather to arrive. It's one of my favorite times of year in New England and the perfect time to cozy up with a great book. I am very lucky to have returned to Pierce School this year, working as the reading specialist and the Title I Project Manager for our elementary schools. Pierce students have come back with smiles on their faces and with that, I would like to encourage some fun reading opportunities for the crisp weather ahead. Below, please find some web links for a few fun things to try each week. I look forward to working with all the students at Pierce School!

(Reading fun fact: Did you know that Dr. Seuss coined the word “nerd” in his 1950 book “If I Ran the Zoo?”)

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/blogs/scholastic-parents-raise-reader/family-fun-fall-bucket-list>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/book-list/seasonal-themes/fall-stories>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/sharing-wordless-picture-books>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/listen-and-learn-audio-books>

Garden Patch

It was so nice to see the sun again! Cornucopia teachers Lauren Judd and Cathy Joly returned to the garden for a day all about bugs. The students listened to a fun poem about insects, and they did a great job singing the Heads-shoulders-knees-and-toes song using insect body parts! Then they explored the garden searching for all kinds of insects. They discovered singing crickets, well-camouflaged caterpillars on the Brussels sprouts, hidden spiders, and lots of buzzing bumblebees and honey bees visiting the flowers in the garden. They also discovered that their pea seeds had sprouted from last week; how exciting! Then they snacked on lemon cucumbers, kale, and ground cherries - the latter received as many thumbs up as thumbs down, but it's great that the students were willing to try something new!

GRANDPARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS AT AES

Some years ago, the Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center organized a meeting for a small group of **Bennington** and Antrim grandparents who were the primary caretakers for their grandchildren. More recently, in March of 2015, a more formal Grandparent Support Group was created to address the needs of grandparents in our area (Antrim, **Bennington**, and surrounding towns and communities) who are parenting their grandchildren. These individuals and couples have made the enormous commitment of raising their young grandchildren. The Grandparent Support Group continues to meet regularly, and serves as a welcome source of information-sharing and mutual support.

The Grandparent Support Group generally meets once a month at Antrim Elementary School on a Saturday morning, with child care available. There is no fee for the meetings.

The group is a joint effort of the Grapevine in Antrim and The River Center in Peterborough, family and community resource centers that run a variety of programs to address the needs of people in our communities. Wendy Hill from The River Center and Carol Lunan from the Grapevine facilitate the group meetings.

During the first part of the 2017-2018 school year, the group will meet at Antrim Elementary School to discuss a variety of topics. Relevant resource people will attend the meetings to provide information and support:

Saturday, September 23 ~ 9 a.m. - 12 noon at Antrim Elementary School ~ **Legal issues related to parenting grandchildren**. A lawyer with expertise in this area will attend the meeting.

Saturday, October 14 and Saturday, October 28 ~ 9 a.m. – 12 noon at Antrim Elementary School ~ **Trauma**

A therapist (or therapists) with expertise in this topic will attend these two meetings. All area grandparents who are parenting their grandchildren are welcome to attend! For more information, contact Carol Lunan at the Grapevine (588-2620) or Wendy Hill (313-8660).

–Article by Robin Gregg, School Counselor, AES and Pierce School rgregg@conval.edu



Muzart at Pierce

By Carole Storro, Muzart Educator

Pierce students will be filling the walls with creative art and filling the halls with joyful singing as soon as we begin our first days of Muzart together in October! Mr. Parshall, Music Educator, will be joining us again this year as we learn about beat, rhythm, contra dancing and singing together in the month of October. Third grade musicians will begin to learn how to play the recorder while fourth grade musicians will learn how to play the ukulele.

In Art we are happy to have Mr. Shultz, Art Educator, join our classes and share about various famous artists when he visits our school! Our first week of Art this year will focus on our annual Pierce School PTO fundraiser, Art to Remember. Student artists will create a work of art in class that connects to our art curriculum unit, Observations in Art. Our completed masterpieces will be sent to the company and returned with information about ordering wonderful products with your student's artwork featured in color on each item! These make wonderful keepsakes as well as unique gifts for family and friends! Each original artwork will be returned to display at home as well! Student artists work really hard on these artworks and we appreciate all the support you can share with the students and the school!

Kindergarten Snippets:

As told by Kindergarteners: The best thing about kindergarten is “the Smartboard” and “the playground”. We have learned “how to read” and “to push my chair in”

Grade 1 Moments:

We are off to a great start in 1st Grade. We have been focusing on building our classroom community. We talked about our hopes and dreams for the year and then established rules that will help us achieve them. We will continue to work on these skills throughout the year as we learn how to apply them in any setting in the school not just our classroom.

Grade 2 Achievements:

In second grade, the month of September has been focused around building our classroom community, learning about each other and our differences, and practicing our classroom routines so that every student can feel successful here at school. To support success further, students have collaboratively created classroom rules. As a class, we agreed that following these rules would help us feel safe, and free to take learning risks. In math, students have been discovering new strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems. They are trying to use these strategies fluently, which helps them find an answer more efficiently. In science, we have enjoyed exploring the garden with Cornucopia. Students have also been learning what scientists do, how they find the answers to their questions, and how to take careful notes and observations. During ELA (English Language Arts) time, students have been practicing sight words, enhancing their vocabulary through stories, learning how to describe a character based on things they say and do, and starting to learn about writing an opinion paragraph or essay. Students look forward to showing families all of their hard work at Open House

Grade 3 Explorations:

The 3rd grade made some great banners which will be displayed at our open house. The students researched different animals and picked one based on their own personality traits to paint on fabric. They are beautiful and will adorn the classroom soon for the remainder of the year. In math, we are working on multiplication, division, and equality and learning different ways to illustrate the process. In ELA, we continue to build our skills by reading, weekly spelling lists, vocabulary work, writing and sequencing stories and even poetry! In science and social studies our work has brought us outside to write in our nature journals and watch for hawks, reading National Geographic Explorer, learning about animals, amazing places around the world, and most recently beginning a unit on magnets.

Fourth Grade Happenings:

In fourth grade students have reacquainted with old friends and welcomed new friends to the class. In math, we have familiarized ourselves with the Eureka! program and are using Zearn, a website that correlates with the program to reinforce skills in an interactive way. In reading, we have read the first two stories from Reading Streets and reading groups have started. We are reading the following chapter books, Squanto: Friend of the Pilgrims, Frindle, and Chocolate Fever. In social studies we are studying Woodland Native Americans, specifically the Abenaki Natives who lived in our region. We are learning about the roles of the men, women, and children in the culture as well as what they needed to survive. We are off to a great start in fourth grade!

