



# Doudna Snapshot

Volume 1, Issue 6

May 2012

## Message from the Principal

### **Response to Intervention (RtI)**

One initiative gaining steam at Doudna is 'RtI.' This basically means: "What are we doing for students that have not learned as well as we want them to." It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to make adjustments to classroom instruction for struggling students. However, RtI also puts this responsibility on the entire school.



One means of doing this is through the use of data boards (pictured). For myself (a former coach), this is essentially a scoreboard. A quick glance at the board reveals how many students need a boost to their instruction. It allows us to see trends in student test scores and how they relate to many other factors such as attendance, grades, or behavior. Most importantly, it will help us make decisions to ensure that every student leaves Doudna ready to succeed at the next level. Thanks to our district RtI committee for their work on getting this project moving.

### **Doudna has Talent!**

Congrats to our PTO, Mike Curtis, and assisting staff for an outstanding FIRST annual Doudna Talent Show. This well attended event gave many of our students the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. Experiences like this one raises student confidence and can have a big impact on academic success. That's a nice added benefit to having a lot of fun!

### **2012-13 Classroom Request Information**

More information about this on [page 16](#). The forms for the requests can be picked up at the office of each school.

## FYI

**Foot Attire** — For health reasons, flip-flops / sandals cannot be worn while playing in the wood chips during recesses nor during gym classes.

**Proper Clothing** — The weather is still unpredictable so be sure that your child is wearing warm clothing when they come to school.

**Lost & Found** — All clothing left in the Lost and Found will be donated to Good Will if not claimed by the end of the school year.

**Payments to School**—Please put all monies in an envelope with your child's name along with a note so we know what to apply the payment towards

### **Alternate After-School**

**Arrangements**—If your child will be going home in a way that is different than usual, the office needs a written note. If your child needs to ride a different bus, please send a note requesting a bus pass with the address of the destination included.

# May 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Jazz Band 9:30	3 Kind. Music program K & L-1:00 S & O-2:00	4 Green & Gold Party 5:00-8:00 @ RCHS	5
6	7 2 hr. late start	8	9	10 Humane Society 2nd gr.-9:30 1st gr.-10:15	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14 5th gr. Band 11-3	15 Assembly 1:00-K-2 2:00-3-5	16 Culver's Share Night 4:00-8:00	17	18	19
20	21 DIBELS 1st-A.M. 2nd-P.M. 3rd gr. trip	22 DIBELS 3rd-A.M. Kind-P.M.	23 Summer library program 2:00-K-2 2:30-3-5	24 5th gr. Field trip	25 2nd gr. Field trip	26
27	28 NO SCHOOL	29	30 Singing group nursing home tour 1:00	31 Character Counts Assembly 2:20	June 1st Last day of School	

# PTO News

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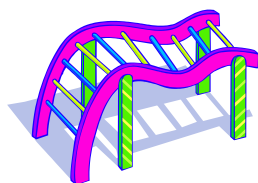
Congratulations to all the participants of the 1st Annual Doudna Music Showcase. We have some very talented people. We are planning now for a bigger and better 2nd Annual Doudna Showcase, so start planning your performance for April, 2013.

The Family Fun Night for May will be on May 4th. The Green & Gold Party will be in the RCHS gym from 5:00-8:00. There will be face painting, games, music, free popcorn & pop, and inflatables. We will need volunteers to supervise the inflatables. When you volunteer that evening, your name will be added to the drawing for the Wilderness trip. If we do not have enough volunteers for each inflatable, then the ones without supervision will be removed. The fundraiser prizes will be awarded also.



The P.T.O. is working on putting together "May Baskets" which will be unveiled at the Green & Gold Party. The themes for the baskets will be Garden, Summer Fun, Milwaukee Brewers, Camping, and 4th of July Backyard BBQ (no fireworks please.) If you would like to donate an item, please drop it off in the Doudna Office by May 1st. The P.T.O. will also be purchasing items for the baskets. Tickets for the baskets will be available on May 4th.

Another Culver's Share Night will be on May 16th from 4:00-8:00. We will need volunteers to help again. Thank you to everyone who helped on April 18th. The P.T.O. will receive \$350.00 for that evening. When you are at Culver's thank them for offering this wonderful fundraising opportunity.



Mr. Olson and the planning committee are busy working on the plans for the new playground equipment. Major fundraising will be starting once the plans have been finalized. Exciting changes and improvements will be happening on the playground.

The P.T.O. has many fun activities planned for Teacher Appreciation Week. Notes will be sent home soon about the activities.

**Our next meeting will be in August to start plans for next year.**

## Summer School Information

**WHAT:** The focus of our summer school program this year will be academics. Specifically, instruction in reading and math will be the priority

**WHO:** This program is offered to students entering Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2012-13 school year. Parents will be contacted by their teacher if it is recommended that their child take advantage of this opportunity. While this is a program for students struggling in academic areas, all students are eligible to sign-up and would benefit from extra instruction.

**WHEN:** There will be two sessions of three weeks each. Each week will consist of four days (Monday – Thursday). Each day will run from 8:00 – 12:00 am. Lunch will be an option for students at the end of each day. This lunch will be free for all students. Parents can enroll their child in one or both sessions.

SESSION 1: June 11 – 29

SESSION 2: July 30 – Aug. 16

**WHERE:** Jefferson Elementary will be the site of our summer school. This site was chosen as a central location which would allow for more students to walk or bike to school.

**WHY:** Student academic ability, especially reading, sometimes declines during the summer months. For many students, we spend the first months of school getting them back to their ability level from the previous spring. A boost of instruction during the summer can make a big difference for student achievement.

**HOW:** There will be some traditional instruction included within our summer program. However, we also will be using different types of instruction to add some variety. One example of this is an online math curriculum called Dream-box.

**If you need a registration form for summer school,**  
**please contact the Doudna office.**



## Summer Food & Summer Fun!

Summer Food Service Program for Children

### Summer Food Program

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition - which is crucial for children to have safe and productive summers. The

summer food program provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals.



### Where & When?

The Richland School District will be offering free meals through the Summer Food Program at the following location(s):

**Jefferson Elementary School  
586 N. Main St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581**

Meals will be served starting **June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 through August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### Who is Eligible?

All children 18 years of age and under are eligible to receive FREE meals. No need to sign up or apply for the program - just bring yourself and enjoy tasty & nutritious meals.



In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Kindergarten

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A vocabulary celebration was held for the Doudna Kindergarteners for reaching their goal of collecting 600 words. The children enjoyed a special story with Doudna librarian Ms. Ederer, followed by ice cream sundaes served in their classrooms.

## 1st Grade

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The first grade students have begun the Ninth Theme in Reading called Special Friends. We are reading about friends who help us and share good times with us. Before the end of the year we will be working on staying in touch with friends by letter writing. We will also complete our last theme, We Can Do It! There are so many things we can do that we weren't able to do at the beginning of the year!

In Math, we will be working on money, including making change, and regrouping when adding. Please watch for notes that explain the regrouping methods we use. If you have change in your pocket, please ask your first grader to count it. Also, as a review, ask your child to tell you the time to the hour and half hour.

We enjoyed our field trip to the LaCrosse Children's Museum. Thank you to all of the chaperones for taking the time to accompany us.

If you are planning on having your child attend one or both sessions of summer school, make sure to send the form to enroll them. If you need a new form, please let your child's teacher know.

As our year draws to a close, thank you, too, to all of those parents, grandparents, and friends who have volunteered to help us here at Doudna. Whether you listened to children read, ran copies, cut things out, popped popcorn, or helped with homework, you made a difference! Thanks so much!

Since this will be the last newsletter of the year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team has decided to dedicate this section of the newsletter to our friend and colleague, Mrs. Connie Sumption. Mrs. Sumption will be retiring after this year. She will be missed by not only her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team, but all the students and staff at Doudna Elementary. Her sweet smile, fun sense of humor, and calming personality are only just a few of the traits she has shared with us. We wish her a happy, healthy retirement, and we want her to know she is leaving us with some wonderful memories. We'll miss you, Mrs. Sumption!



### My Favorite Thing about Mrs. Sumption

**Preston** —I like reading with her. She makes it fun.

**Katie** —She is very nice and my favorite teacher.

**Chance** —She has nice coloring skills and I love how she watches me hang upside down on the red thing outside.

**Devon** —She is a very good teacher because she gives us extra recess.

**Brian** —I love playing games in her class.

**Alyssa** —She lets us play fun games.

**Conner** —She helps me get better at math.

**Kim** —She is nice and very kind and good at math.

**Sawyer** —I love that she is nice, kind, and sometimes she has everything that we need that we don't have. We should give her more respect.

**Rachel** —She gives out snacks before our test.

**Ty** —She is a really nice teacher and I like her a lot.

**Paige** —One time we got 37 minutes of recess, it was fun!

**Aaron** —She's the best teacher in the whole wide world.

**Becca** —I liked making skeletons in class with her.

**Sam** —I like the way she does Daily 5 with all the different groups.

**Billy** —She is nice and helps me with my work.

## 3rd Grade



### **Mrs. Madsen and Her Reasons for Teaching!**

Mrs. Madsen is retiring after teaching many years in the Richland School District. Mrs. Madsen has taught at Doudna School for twenty-one years! She also taught at Jefferson School and Akan School. She taught in two different schools in Illinois before she and her family moved to Wisconsin.

Mrs. Madsen and her husband Steve have two children Nate and Angela. Nate is a Physician's Assistant in Washington, D.C. Angela is a Marriage and Family Counselor in California. Mrs. Madsen is going to become a grand-mother in August when Angela has her first child!

Mrs. Madsen loves to garden, travel, take walks, bike, fish, golf, play the piano... She will have plenty of things to do when she has retired!

Teaching and helping her students through the years has given Mrs. Madsen great joy. She cherishes the memories and friendships that have come with her teaching career.

**We cherish her and will miss her greatly!**

The Third Grade Team

### **We want Mrs. Madsen to know:**

**Addie** – You are very helpful. I like spelling "Teamwork."

**Evan** – I like the Science experiments we did.

**Summit** – I like the fun games like Apples to Apples. I like the Math games we played too.

**Easton** – You give us time to get our work done. I like you because you help students who need help.

**Haley** – You are helpful and kind. You help with homework when you are stuck.

**Kassidy** – You are a caring teacher!

**Jamie** – You are very nice. I like your smile!

**Brad** – I like spelling "Teamwork!" You are a very nice teacher! I wish you could stay longer.

**Phoenix** – You are the best teacher ever!

**Masen** – You are nice. You give good hugs. I like to ask for hugs.

**Alex** – I hope you enjoy your retirement!

**Timothy** – You are really kind!

**Rani** – I hope you have a good time when you are retired!

**Lesly** – You are a good Math teacher, you are nice.

**Cassandra** – You are a good teacher!

**Cora** – I hope you have a good time with your granddaughter!

### **We love Mrs. Madsen!**



## 3rd Grade

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### TERRIFIC THIRD GRADERS HAVE BEEN BUSY LEARNING...

**Math:** We've been learning about fractions and probability this month.

**Reading:** We will finish up the school year with our last Theme in Reading called "Smart Solutions." This theme talks about discussing options when solving problems. We will continue to learn about adjectives, adverbs, predicting/infering, contractions and words with hard and soft c and g sounds.

**Science:** We are learning about weather, water cycles, space, machines and motions to finish up our third grade curriculum.

**Social Studies:** We continue to learn about current events in the news and doing weekly geography lessons with upcoming lessons on community service, tourist maps, minerals of Alaska, etc.

**Language Arts:** We are finishing up our descriptive stories in each of our classrooms. The students are getting very good at using adjectives to describe nouns.

**Field Trip:** Our field trip to the Kickapoo Valley Reserve is on **Monday, May 21**. Please mark this down on your calendar at home. We do NOT need chaperones for this field trip.

**Summer School:** It's not too late to sign up your third grader for one or both sessions of summer school. It is offered June 11-29 and July 30-August 16 at Jefferson Elementary. The day runs from 8-12 with free lunch for students. This is an excellent way to keep your child engaged in learning during the summer months which can only help their academic achievement in the years to come.

## 4th Grade

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 3**

FIELD TRIP TO FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S HILLSIDE SCHOOL IN SPRING GREEN AND TOWER HILL STATE PARK

**THE WEEK OF MAY 21**

WISCONSIN COUNTY REPORT AND 3-D PROJECT DUE

**MAY 31**

FIELD TRIP TO WISCONSIN DELLS FOR THE UPPER DELLS BOAT TRIP

# 5th Grade

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## **What is your fondest memory of Doudna?**

**Dacia** -Everything about it

**Morgan** - When the entire school had a summer activity where we had to go to different stations to collect all the beads

**Joey** - Winning 2nd place in the fourth grade spelling bee

**Denver** - Science in 5th grade

**Austin** - Lunch because I was always hungry

**Brooklyn** - Being in Mrs. Gunderson's classroom because she was funny and fun!

**Levi** - Being in Mrs. Olson's kindergarten class

**Alex** - kindergarten, because we could take a nap

**Destiny** - meeting new friends and new teachers

**Elle** - making new friends

**Abigail** - meeting new people and making friends

**Blake** - Mr. Curtis dressing like a rock star

**Paige** - reading buddies

**Chase** - studying and learning from tests like WKCE and MAPS

**Ben** - Phy. Ed.

**Gabrielle** - Being a kid, having fun, and learning

**Keon** - When I had my basketball signed by Bradie Ewing in kindergarten

**Justina** - Recess and hanging out with friends

**Sara** - Learning and spending time with my friends

**Claire** - Recess and Mrs. Nemeth

**Libby** - BINGO

**Alex** - The bowling tournament

**Anna** - Hornet's Day

**Triton** - Great times with all of my friends

## **What is one thing you are looking forward to this summer?**

**Cody** - Going fishing up North

**Roslynn** - Going to Jefferson to play basketball and volleyball with my cousins

**Brianna** - Horseback riding

**Logan** - Hanging out with my friends

**Kayla** - Showing my pigs and riding my horses

**Jillian** - going to summer camp

**Mallory** - trying out for "The Sound of Music"

**Samantha** - showing cattle, horses, pigs, and chickens

**Caitlin** - going to Las Vegas

**Monica** - taking a summer trip and lots of swimming

**Serra** - going to Milwaukee

**Chris** - Going to Alabama

**Jeff** - Going to the water park

## 5th Grade (continued)

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**Leo** - Seeing my mom

**Jadon** - Attending Mindstorm Camp

**Savanna** - No homework

**Hunter** - Being able to wake up late

**Kylie** - Staying up all night

**Marybell** - Being with my friends

### **What excites you the most about attending middle school?**

**Hannah** - What excites me the most is meeting all the teachers that my brother had.

**Anna** - Being with my brother

**Koral** - joining wrestling and having new coaches

**Karen** - Getting to change classes after a period of time

**Veronica** - longer study hall

**Dameon** - more activity, such as, band & a weight room

**Jeron** - to have a variety of teachers and classes

**Tayashalynn** - moving up a grade, new people, better lockers

**Tiffany** - seeing my 8<sup>th</sup> grade sister and meeting new teachers

**Ryan** -opportunities, like band, workshop, homeroom, & sports

**Jenna** - changing classrooms

**Matt** - Having many classes

**Hannah** - Not having to stay in one class all the time

**Austin** - Having different classes and new teachers to meet

**Brittany** - Normal sized lockers

**Bethany** - Being in choir



Below is a quote that a few of us 5th graders want to share with you.

*"When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that HAPPINESS was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life."*

by John Lennon

## Library News



It seems like it's early to be talking about this, but we're preparing for the end of the school year in the library. We want students to be able to check out for as long as possible during the school year. We also need to make sure that all of the books that were shared with your family this year are returned to the library so that they are available again next year. We'll be sending weekly reminders home with students regarding any overdue or lost books that we'd like them to return, but sometimes, it helps to have a reminder at home.

Two important deadlines to keep in mind are:

**Friday, May 18** – This is the final day to check books out of the library.

**Friday, May 25** – All books need to be returned to the library, and we will begin our annual inventory.

If you don't receive a reminder, and you wish to check your student's library account for overdue or lost items, please feel free to contact me at school by phone at 647-8971 or by e-mail at [edem@richland.k12.wi.us](mailto:edem@richland.k12.wi.us). If you have internet access, you may check your child's library records through our library program, [Destiny](#). Once at the Richland School District site, click on the link for Doudna Elementary School, and then, click on the Log In button in the upper right corner of the page. Students in grades 1-5 should know their usernames and passwords to access their Destiny accounts, but Kindergarten students are not yet assigned usernames and passwords.

Books that are not returned or that are lost need to be replaced, and we will ask you to pay for them. Fortunately, many "lost" books show up at some point over the summer. If this happens to you, please return the book to the library at your earliest convenience, and your money will be returned to you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Elliott at your convenience.

Miss Ederer

## Physical Education - Mrs. Tiller K-3

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Mrs. Campbell's and Ms. Miller's 3rd grade Physical Education classes have been doing dances from different decades. From the 60's they have danced the Jerk, Twist, Monkey, Pony, Swim, Mashed Potato, Skate, Hitchhiker, Egyptian, and the Locomotion. With the 70's, came the disco era where they danced John Travolta's Night Fever, complete with the disco point! They have also worked on the 80's Electric Slide and the 2000 Cha Cha Slide. We will continue through the decades with the Cupid Shuffle and some Hip Hop! With this repertoire they should be prepared to dance anywhere ...anytime!



## Physical Education - Mr. Mindham 3-4-5

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- ◆ Spring is here and it's great to be outside for class activities again! We went on a nature hike on one of the nice days in early April.
- ◆ Our outdoor spring activities will include: softball skills and lead-up type games, track and field events, jogging, several kickball style games and the opportunity to play some of our favorite tag games.
- ◆ Our fitness challenges this month will be the standing long jump, the 50 yard sprint, and the ½ mile run ( 1 mile run for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade ).
- ◆ Presently, on rainy days we are finishing our bowling unit with the class tournaments yet to begin next week.
- ◆ Students should have a sweatshirt or light jacket available for days when it is cool outside and wear gym shoes (not sandals ) to class.

# Art

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## Art Room Happenings!!



In April all the students were very busy in preparing for the First Annual District wide art show. It was very successful and we viewed all of our very talented artists. We are winding down and trying now to finish our last projects.

K – We are starting to build our stick houses

1<sup>st</sup> grade – We are making small clay pots and celluclay turtles

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – We are learning about our most famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright who was born in Richland Center.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – We are making Egyptian art projects

4<sup>th</sup> grade – We are creating sculpture out of junk

5<sup>th</sup> grade – We are creating plaster masks on each other and decorating them.

It has been a fantastic year for art. Please encourage your students to make art and draw and color over the summer.

See you in September! ~ Ms. Wilkie

# Music

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**The Kindergarten Spring Sing Music Programs are on Thursday, May 3, at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Doudna Elementary big gymnasium.**

Mrs. Korb and Mrs. Lins Kindergarten classes will perform at 1:00 p.m. while Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Simonson Kindergarten classes will perform at 2:00 p.m. The program will last about twenty minutes, and I hope that you can come.

Our first graders are beginning to read music rhythms and pitches and lyrics to real song sheets. They are amazing readers!

Our second and third graders are singing out of their grade level books, Music K-8 magazines, Music Express Magazines, and other song books. They have been learning a great deal of music vocabulary, and they are enthusiastic participants!

Our fourth and fifth grade students are playing the recorder and reading music notes and rhythms. They have been playing recorder songs with C.D. music accompaniments. They're becoming musicians!



## Counselor's Corner



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Character Counts Assembly was a very special one. Bradie Ewing was our guest of honor along with his mother Andrea and grandmother (and former Doudna teacher) Norma Tanner. Bradie talked to Doudna Students about his experiences at Doudna Elementary all the way to the present. Students and staff were all excited that he could join us.

Other Character Counts Special Award Recipients were: Gina, Wade, Clara, Mitchell, Malory, Jenna, Kearstyn, Elise, and Ms. Rotell. Congratulations to all!

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Keeping with our Doudna Rocks theme this year, our final wall display will be "Chords of Caring." At Doudna we want to emphasize treating others with kindness, compassion, generosity and a spirit of forgiveness.



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Finally, I would like to thank all of the participants and behind the scenes individuals who assisted with the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Doudna Music Showcase. They all worked extremely hard to make it a success. I think it was an enjoyable event for all.

-Mr. Curtis

# **Richland Elementary Classroom Request Guidelines 2012-2013**

Parents wishing to make a request for their child for the upcoming school year are to make the request in writing to the principal by utilizing the *Classroom **Information Sheet***. Parents may request a particular classroom environment, but not a particular teacher. Requests for specific teachers will be discarded.

Keep in mind that teaching assignments may change over the summer. A written request, or lack of a request, will have **no** influence on the care and quality of education given to each child.

Requests for a child not to be placed with another child, for whatever reason, must be noted in writing on the *Classroom **Information Sheet***. Given other circumstances and teacher recommendations, it is not always possible to honor these requests.

All parent requests received by the deadline date of **May 11, 2012** will be strongly considered. However, the final placement decision is based upon a variety of factors. The final decision is made by the principal.

Please understand consideration of many factors, including but not limited to academic and social considerations, total class size, male/female ratio, and heterogeneous grouping are used in the placement decisions. The final decision on all student placements rests with the principal after due consideration of staff recommendations and parent requests. We will do our best to place students per parent requests, however as stated we may not always be able to.

Our staff will be formulating class lists prior to the end of this school year. We will attempt to allow for time at the end of the school year for your child to become familiar with his/her teacher for next year. This also allows for the teacher to get to know students and prepare to meet their needs for the following year.

Parents are cautioned not to base their opinion of a teacher upon what they may have heard from other parents or community members. Just as each child is unique, so is each teacher. An experience that other parents may have had with their children may be totally different from what your child could have with the same teacher.

**Classroom Information Sheets can be picked up in the office**



## May is Better Hearing & Speech Month!

**S**peech and language disorders can take many forms, including the areas of articulation (speech sounds), fluency (stuttering), voice, pragmatics (conversation skills), and language (such as vocabulary, grammar, auditory memory, word order, sentence length, and critical thinking skills).

**P**arents can work on increasing their children's speech and language skills by incorporating talking into their daily activities. Some ideas include asking your child questions about a story you read together, talking about steps needed to perform activities (like washing dishes or baking cookies), or having a "Family Talk Time" where everyone can take turns telling about high and low points of their day or week.

**E**very child can benefit from practice with speech and language skills. A child's ability to communicate and understand ideas is essential for the development of reading and writing. Oral language and written language support each other and enhance success in school.

**E**ach year, May is declared "Better Hearing & Speech Month" by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Besides reminding people of the importance of good speech, language, and hearing, another purpose is to make others more aware of what audiologists and speech & language pathologists do. Audiologists are specialists in testing hearing and in providing special training to people with hearing disorders. Speech and language pathologists are specialists in diagnosing and treating people with language, articulation, fluency, and voice disorders.

**C**elebrate children's speech and hearing this May by remembering to keep talking fun and by trying out new activities to increase your child's speech and language skills.

**H**ere at Doudna, Lynnette Bruckner and JoAnne Gratz are the speech & language pathologists. If you ever have any questions about your child's speech and language skills, please stop by the speech and language rooms!

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2012

Title I Program

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Little Owl's Night*

Little Owl is happy in the forest at night. He and his animal friends gaze at the moon and stars. But he's curious about daytime, so one night he tries to stay awake until the sun comes up. Will he get to see what happens when night ends? A cute story by Divya Srinivasan.



### ■ *Just Behave, Pablo Picasso!*

Jonah Winter's biography will introduce your youngster to a famous painter. But Picasso wasn't always famous. At first, some people didn't like his art because it was different. He kept painting, however, and eventually created a brand-new style called cubism. (Also available in Spanish.)

### ■ *Cherries and Cherry Pits*



In Vera Williams's book, a little girl loves to write stories about people eating cherries.

The fact that they're always spitting out the pits gives her an idea. If she planted the pits and they grew into trees, she'd have enough cherries to share with people all over the world.

### ■ *My Baseball Book*

How many players are on a baseball team? How many innings do they play? Your child can learn the basics of baseball in this fact book by Gail Gibbons. The simple language and labeled drawings show the parts of a baseball diamond, the rules of the game, and more.



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## Summertime is reading time

Whether your youngster is playing with toys, having a picnic, going out, or getting ready for bed, summer is full of opportunities to read. Use these suggestions to keep his skills growing while he's not in school.

### Playtime

Toys and books make a good combination. Try putting transportation storybooks with your child's cars and trucks, or adventure books near his toy figures. He can use his imagination to act out the stories with the toys.

### Mealtime

Stories, like family meals, are perfect for sharing. Carry a bag of books along on a picnic. After you eat, read aloud to your youngster, or let him read to you. You might also read stories that are related to what you eat. For instance, try *Lunch* (Denise Fleming), and then make a fruit salad with ingredients mentioned in the book.

### Activity time

Your child can read on the way to destinations or before you leave the house.



Try a book like *Maisy's Pool* (Lucy Cousins) if you're going swimming, or *Zoom!* (Diane Adams) on the way to a carnival or county fair. When you arrive, your child will be excited to do activities he just read about.

### Bedtime

Youngsters love bedtime rituals, and reading can be the coziest part. Let your child choose favorite stories to read at bedtime. By reading the same ones regularly, he'll soon learn the words. Tip: If he has a slightly later bedtime during the summer, have him use that time for reading on his own.♥

## Hooray for reading!

Does your child love books? Let her share her joy of reading with others. Here's how:

- Suggest that she make a summer reading poster. Offer to take photos of her holding a favorite book in each hand or reading under a tree. Then, she can glue the photos to a poster board and add a slogan like "Reading is cool" or "It's summer! Let's read!" Hang her poster above a bookshelf or in a hallway at home.
- Let your youngster have a book swap party with friends. Each guest can bring several books she has read and leave with a few new ones. Idea: Have children come dressed as their favorite book characters—everyone can try to guess who they are.♥



# Writing every day

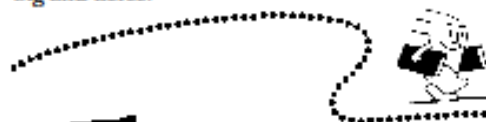
Writing a little each day will get your youngster used to putting ideas and information on paper. Consider these quick activities:

- When your child finishes a dot-to-dot picture or a coloring book page, she can practice creative writing by adding a sentence or paragraph that describes it. *Example:* "The fire-breathing dragon was big and fierce."



- Have a written conversation with your youngster by sending notes back and forth to each other. Try to use a few words she's not familiar with so she can learn new ones. *Tip:* Suggest that she have a written conversation with a sibling or friend.

- Ask your child to keep track of something. Say she loves stuffed animals. Let her make a list of all the ones in her room, including the type of animal and color. If she hasn't named them yet, now would be a good time! Or have her inventory your family's movie collection or write the names of all the cities or towns she has visited.♥



## Fun with Words Word puzzles

Word puzzles can improve your youngster's spelling and vocabulary. Here are two you can make at home.

### Word search

Have your child write down any five words. Then, draw an 8 x 8 grid on a piece of paper. Write the words—down, across, or diagonally—one letter per box. Fill in all the other squares around them with random letters. Let your youngster search for his words and circle them. Next, have him make a word search for you.



## Parent to Parent

### Grocery store reading

Grocery shopping with my twins used to be a chore. Then, one day we saw a mother and two children who seemed to be having fun in the store. I noticed the kids were holding coupons and matching them to products on the shelves. I decided to try that with my girls.

The next time we went to the store, I gave each of my children a plastic bag with 10 coupons for items we needed to buy. I told them to read the coupons and try to find the items as we went up and down the aisles. Before I knew it, they were reading words like "family size," "waffles," and "paper towels." As they found each item, they handed the coupon to me and put the product in our cart.

Now we play this reading game every time we go grocery shopping. The trips are a little more fun, and the girls are learning to read more words.♥



### Cryptogram

Ask your child to write the alphabet across the top of a sheet of paper. Below each letter, he can write a number, 1–26 (A = 1, B = 2, and so on). Take turns thinking of a word (*park*) and writing the corresponding numbers (16, 1, 18, 11). The other person has to use the code to figure out the word.♥

**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
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## Q&A Teacher appreciation

Q My son wants to give his teacher an end-of-year gift that shows what she has taught him. Any ideas?

A A handwritten, homemade gift is a nice way for your child to express appreciation for a good school year.

You might suggest that he write a poem about his favorite subject. He can mention characters from books the teacher read aloud or facts about explorers or inventors. Or he could write a nature poem and draw pictures of seeds,

flowers, trees, and rocks that he learned about. If your youngster isn't writing much on his own yet, let him dictate what he wants to say. After you write it, he can copy it in his own handwriting.

A more experienced writer might make an alphabet book. Have him put one letter on every page and write and illustrate a memory from the year for each letter. *Example:* "A is for the apple orchard where we had our field trip. B is for the Berenstain Bears books we read."♥



# MAY BREAKFAST MENU

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk	2 Breakfast Pizza Apple Slices Juice Milk	3 Cinnamon Roll Juice Milk	4 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk
7 Late Start	8 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk	9 Cheese Omelet Toast Juice Milk	<b>10</b> Breakfast Pizza Orange Slices Juice Milk	11 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk
14 Whole Grain Pan- cakes Syrup Sausage Link Juice Milk	15 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk	16 Breakfast Pizza Applesauce Cup Juice Milk	17 Mini Cinnis String Cheese Juice Milk	18 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk
21 Bagel with Cream Cheese String Cheese Juice Milk	22 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk	23 Long John Juice Milk	24 Breakfast Pizza Mandarin Oranges Juice Milk	25 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk
28 No School Memorial Day	29 Cereal Toast String Cheese Juice Milk	30 Pop Tart String Cheese Juice Milk	31 Cheese Omelet Toast Juice Milk	June 1 Cook's Choice

# MAY LUNCH MENU

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Turkey Sub or Mini Corn Dogs Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	2 Hamburger or Cheese Omelet Hash Brown Peaches Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	3 Chicken Salad or Rib Sandwich Tator Circles Pears Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	4 Cheese Pizza or Baked Fish Carrots/Dip Pineapple Dinner Roll Milk
7 Chicken Nuggets or Beef Ravioli Corn Mixed Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	8 Taco's or Fish Nuggets Spanish Rice Applesauce Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	9 Ham Sub or BBQ Baked Beans Orange Slices Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	10 Chicken Patty or Hot Dog Cucumber/Carrots With Dip Peaches Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	11 Hot Beef or Cheese Omelet Hash Brown Mandarin Oranges Dinner Roll Milk
14 Hot Ham and Cheese or Brat Carrots Applesauce Dinner Roll Milk	15 Beef Stroganoff or Polish Sausage Mashed Potato Peaches Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	16 California Burger or Chicken Strips French Fries Strawberry Cups Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	17 Turkey Wrap or Pizza Burger Peas Mandarin Oranges Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	18 Mini Corn Dogs or Fish on a Bun Corn Pineapple Dinner Roll Milk
21 Meat Loaf or Grilled Chicken Mashed Potato Applesauce Dinner Roll Milk	22 Ham Sub or Corn Dog Green Beans Peaches Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	23 Chicken Fajita or Rib Spanish Rice Apple Slices Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	24 Meatball Sub or Hot Pork Hash Brown Mandarin Oranges Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	25 Chicken Nuggets or Cheese Burger Tator Circles Mixed Fruit Dinner Roll Milk
28 No School Memorial Day	29 Turkey Sub or Sausage Pizza Green Beans Pears Dinner Roll Milk	30 Cook's Choice	31 Cook's Choice	June 1 Cook's Choice