

# Engaging Parents

## Newsletter



November 2015



### TRANITA TALKS...

*Greetings!*

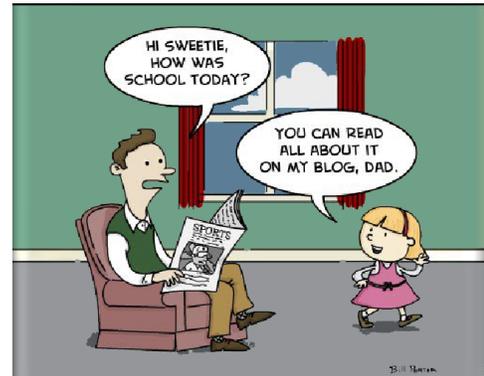
*November features two national recognitions that are very important to our district. It is National Parent Involvement Month as well as National Family Literacy Month. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you do to support your children – our students – in achieving academic success. I encourage you to continue to serve as your child's first teacher and instill a love of reading in them. Together we can achieve greatness!*

## Celebrate Parent Involvement Month

Parent Involvement Month is designed to recognize and honor the powerful contributions parents and caregivers make to support the success of students. We cannot truly achieve academic success without the support and involvement of parents. We appreciate all that our parents do each day to support our students.



## 10 Questions to Ask Your Child about His Day at School



## Parent-Teacher Poem

By Ray A. Lingefelter

I dreamed I stood in a studio  
and watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
and they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher; the tools she used  
were books and music and art.

One was a parent with a guiding hand  
and a gentle loving heart.

And when at last their work was done  
they were proud of what they had wrought.  
For the things they had worked into the child  
could never be sold or bought.

And each agreed she would have failed  
if she had worked alone.

For behind the parent stood the school,  
and behind the teacher stood the home.

Get a sense of your child's life at school by asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response. Ask your child these questions to learn more about their experiences in school.

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
4. Tell me about what you read in class.
5. Who did you play with today? What did you play?
6. Do you think math (or any subject) is too easy or too hard?
7. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
8. What rules are different at school than our rules at home? Do you think they're fair?
9. Who did you sit with at lunch?
10. Can you show me something you learned or did today?



A good parent-teacher relationship is important for making the most of the school year. Primary school teachers reveal things every teacher wished parents knew to help you be the best parent in class.

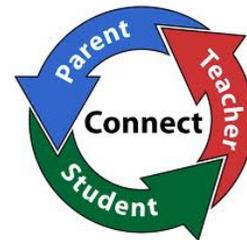
- Have a set morning routine. Kids thrive on routine, and a structured morning routine will set your child up for a good day. Morning routines should include a nutritious breakfast and chores that increase a child's independence, such as making their beds.
- Be on time every time. Teachers love parents who respect bell times. Being late to school means your child walks into a lesson that is already underway. It can be embarrassing for your child and can take them a while to settle down and focus on the lesson.
- Know your child's schedule. Your child will feel more comfortable about school if you are on top of their routine. Create a weekly calendar listing everything that is going on at school, such as open house, extra-curricular activities, and project due dates.
- Teachers wear many hats but can't be responsible for everything. Although teachers are responsible for many different jobs and teach a variety of subjects, they are not responsible for everything to do with your child. They are not qualified doctors, speech therapists, or nutritionists, so try not to take offense if they refer your child to someone with more specific knowledge.
- The teacher is on your side. Teachers care about your child and have their best interest at heart. They teach because they love children.

Taken in part from an article by Lynne Hughes at: [www.kidspot.com](http://www.kidspot.com)

## Title I Tidbit

### The School-Parent Compact

The school-parent compact, along with the parent involvement policy, is a keystone document for a school to provide an effective family engagement program. The school-parent compact is passion in print. It is like a compass pointing toward the destination of "student success."



The school-parent compact is a written agreement of shared responsibility for home and school to work together to improve student achievement. The compact provides an opportunity to create new partnerships in the school community.

The school-parent compact should address:

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- Ways parents can support their child's learning.
- Ways students will be responsible for learning.
- The importance of ongoing two-way communication.
- Activities to help build stronger home-school partnerships.

All schools receiving Title I Part A funds are required to develop a compact with the participation of parents and to distribute the compact to families. Frequently it is provided at registration, open house, the annual Title I meeting, or at a PTO meeting. Ask your campus parent engagement liaison for a copy of the compact.

## Upcoming Events

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>November 3</b>     | – Chick-fil-A Family Education Night, "Elect to Write" Writing Workshop, 430 FM 1960 (in front of Kroger), 6:00 p.m. |
| <b>November 6</b>     | – Registration deadline for ACT on Dec. 12   |
| <b>November 7</b>     | – SAT administration   |
| <b>November 11</b>    | – Veterans Day   |
| <b>November 12</b>    | – Parent Workshop, "Bullying, Cyber-bullying and Internet Safety" at Hoyland ES and McNabb ES, 6:00 p.m.             |
| <b>November 19</b>    | – Parent Advisory Council luncheon and meeting, Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 11:30 a.m.                     |
| <b>November 23-27</b> | – Thanksgiving Break   |
| <b>November 26</b>    | – Thanksgiving Day   |
| <b>December 12</b>    | – ACT administration   |

## National Family Literacy Month

Nov. 1 marks the start of National Family Literacy Month, a nation-wide initiative to encourage not just reading in children, but prioritizing it as a family affair. This month has been nationally celebrated since 1994, and many states issue a statewide proclamation in order to support it through their public education efforts.

Here are some things you can do to celebrate National Family Literacy Month and encourage reading in your home:

- Visit the local library and check out books as a family.
- Read to your child every night, and have your child read to you every night.
- Attend book fairs at school or the library.
- Play games that are reading related.
- Give books and magazines on gift-giving occasions.

### Family and Community Engagement

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