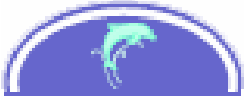




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Reading Edge Academy – A Brand New Year with Double the School Size!

Whether this is "Welcome back" or "Welcome", we're excited about everyone being at Reading Edge Academy for the upcoming school year. Faculty, Staff, and Students have enjoyed almost three complete fun-filled months of rejuvenation in the Sunshine State, and are ready to get back to learning.

While almost everyone was enjoying their time away from the school, there was a select group of Staff members, along with an awesome construction crew, that worked tirelessly to make sure the building expansion was complete prior to the start of school. Our new facilities are allowing us to expand our student body, as well as creating permanent classrooms for Art, Music, and PE, and we now have our own Cafetorium.

Come check us out – but don't forget to check in at the Front Office before wandering. And don't worry that you won't be able to find the Office, it hasn't moved!



Beginnings are always an exciting time. Carrying that excitement through the entire school year requires commitment – one from all of the Staff of REA, the Students, and their families.

Reading Edge Academy firmly believes that schools and parents must work together for the betterment of the child. This starts with participation in the school Parent Teacher Association (PTA), continues by utilizing Parent Volunteers to coordinate and participate in activities throughout the year, and finishes by relying on Parents nurturing a love for learning where the Teachers have planted the seeds.

Welcome, now let's go learn!



MISSION STATEMENT
 Reading Edge Academy is dedicated to launching children's academic careers with success, confidence and a love for reading.

Come See the new and improved website!!!
 Monthly calendars, school lunches, and much more can be found on the website. Updated regularly, this will be a wonderful tool for communication!
www.readingedgeacademy.org

To Report on Past or Upcoming Events in the Newsletter, please contact Laurel Martin at Laurel@stephensmotorworks.com.
 Notice: all submissions are subject to review, approval, and editing prior to inclusion.

Reading Edge Academy Expansion – Construction Fence Gone At Last

After more than a year of paperwork filing, and a flurried few months of construction, REA is double the size and ready to get down to the business of learning.

We had a great response to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that took place on August 5, 2011, to officially open the new building. Local dignitaries, faculty, staff, and parents were on hand to open our doors.

We would like to thank 5th/ 3rd Bank for their support and perseverance with our school as we completed Federal Funding paperwork, finalized our loan paperwork, and constructed the new building.

The school and grounds are in excellent condition, and on proud display to all, showcasing of our increasing presence in DeBary.

This article was featured in the last newsletter for the 2010-2011 school year. We've brought it back to help you help your child get back into the school groove...

6 Tips on Transitioning Back to School

Published August 20, 2010
Written by Grace Chen

-Summer may be coming to a close, but the school year is just starting to rev into gear. If you are concerned about how to transition your kids from the lazy, hazy days of summer to a more structured routine, you are not

alone. Take advantage of these tips to help the entire family transition back to school more smoothly.

Good Nights = Better Days

-Kids tend to adjust to the school routine much better if they move into it gradually. It is particularly important to get your children on a good bedtime schedule to ensure they begin their new school year fully rested.

-Begin moving the bedtime clock up by 30 minutes or so a number of days before school begins. Establish a family dinner time and a relaxing evening routine that promotes restful slumber. CBS parenting expert Shannon Eis said in a recent CBS report that a well-rested child is one that can adapt to a new school year quickly and successfully.

Assess Physical Health

-The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommends scheduling doctor and dentist appointments prior to the start of school to give your child a clean bill of health before the school year begins. If you have concerns about your child's physical, emotional or psychological development, discuss them with your pediatrician. Your doctor can let you know if your child's development is age-appropriate or an issue worth exploring.

-Knowing potential problems ahead of time allows you and your child to work through issues before school begins. It also gives you the information you need to talk to your child's

teacher at the beginning of the school year about problems that might arise throughout the year. You can give your child's teacher the tools she needs to manage issues before they become too big to handle in the classroom.

Implement Organization

-When the family is organized and prepared for the school year, everyone feels less stress over the transition.

-Create a file to keep important papers from your child's school for easy reference throughout the year. Establish a clean, quiet space for your child to do his homework and equip it with necessary supplies like paper and pencils.

-GreatSchools.org recommends entering important dates like back-to-school night and school holidays on your family calendar right away to make it easier to plan your schedule.

-Commit to completing paperwork as soon as it comes into the house to avoid the accumulation of piles and clutter. Based upon the Montessori philosophy, every child needs organization and predictability to thrive – and keeping your home organized and clutter-free is one of the best ways to create an inspiring learning environment at home.

Easing Anxiety

-Some children are naturally more anxious about the start of a new school year, but there are steps you can take to ease their concerns. First, Education.com advises parents to talk to their children about their feelings regarding the new school year. Try to exude a positive attitude about the

experience, even if you are feeling your own anxiety about sending your child off for the first time.

-The NASP also suggests lining up a few play dates with your child's friends prior to the first day of school or soon after, which will help her develop strong social connections with peers.

Settling In

-During the first week or two of school, clear your own schedule as best you can to be there for your child as he makes his transition. The NASP says that parents who are present are able to help their children acclimate to the routine of school and deal with any anxieties or issues that might arise during the first few days.

-Education experts also recommend heading to school a few minutes early with your child for the first few days to help him settle into the classroom and maybe talk to the teacher briefly before the day begins. It is also important to have a pick-up schedule in place, so your child knows that someone will be there promptly at the end of the day to take him home.

Dealing with a Rocky Start

-If the first few days are a bit rough for your child, you can help him cope with the transition. First, the NASP warns parents not to overreact to your child's separation anxiety or shyness. Remember that teachers are trained to help children adjust and overcome these issues. When you drop your child off at school, do not linger for long. Give him a hug and the reassurance that you

will be back to pick him up at the end of the day. Most children adjust beautifully within a few short days.

-Getting back to school is a major adjustment for the whole family, but a little preparation and communication will help you make the transition smooth. With these tips in mind, you can make getting back to school easier on everyone in your household.

Resources:

Eis, Shannon, "Back-to-School Transition Tips," CBS News, August 11, 2010. Available at:
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/11/earlyshow/living/parenting/main6763355.shtml>

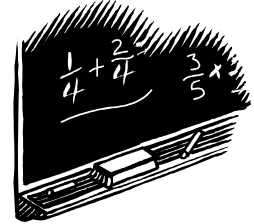
National Association of School Psychologists, "Back-to-School Transitions: Tips for Parents." Available at http://www.nasponline.org/resources/home_school/b2shandout.aspx

GreatSchools.org, "Nine Steps to a Smart Start." Available at <http://www.greatschools.org/back-to-school/preparation/back-to-school-blues.gs?content=71&page=1>

Education.com, "Tips for Easy Back-to-School Transitions." Available at http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Tips_Easy_Back/

Upcoming Events

August 22nd –
First Day of School



August 24th –
NO Early Release

August 31st –
Early Release

September 5th –



September 23rd –
NO SCHOOL
(Student Holiday)

TBD –
Mandatory PTA Meeting
(stay tuned for information)

THANK YOU!

While parents have been busy wrapping up summer vacations and camps, locating school uniforms and supplies, and determining this year's after school care; our Teachers and Staff have been back in the Classroom. To help ease the transition, a few of our business neighbors and a returning parent generously supplied food.

A Sincere and Hearty "Thank You" goes out to:

Donuts to Go, who gave donuts for our teachers,
Texas Roadhouse, who supplied salad and bread for lunch,
Goodfella's, who sent pasta, pizza, and garlic rolls,
Amanda Andrews, who sent pasta salad, and
Too Jays, who sent sandwich wraps.

Dolphin Clicks

(A.K.A. A Word from Our Teachers)

In the coming months this section will be filled by our various Teachers, giving parents a brief peak into the classroom. For now, keep the list handy, and it will help you learn the names of some of our faculty/ staff:

Principal/ President –
Ms. Peggy Comardo
Registrar/ Vice President –
Mr. Don Comardo
Treasurer –
Mr. Kevin Burr
Administrative Assistant –
Ms. Kim Bonfield
Academic Coach –
Ms. Deborah Smoak
Physical Education Teacher –
Coach Keith Asmussen
Music Teacher –
Ms. Shavonne Burr
Art Teacher –
Ms. Paulette Maffucci
Resource Teacher –
Ms. Karin Ann McKinney
Speech Clinician –
Ms. Sandra Kent
Kindergarten Teachers –
Ms. Lisa Tolland with
Paraprofessional
Ms. Kimberly Smerglia
Ms. Dawn Norat with
Paraprofessional
Ms. Jennifer Haner
*Ms. Katherine Carol with
Paraprofessional
Ms. Stefanie Nelson
*Ms. Katie Lowrey with
Paraprofessional
Ms. Svetlana
Abramenko
First Grade Teachers –
*Mr. Curt Sweeney
Mr. Jason LaCertosa
Ms. Stefanie Warmoth
Second Grade Teachers –
Ms. Deborah Simon

Ms. Sabrina Bew
Ms. Elizabeth Ellis
Third Grade Teachers –
Ms. Darlene Gravenmier
Ms. Marchell Thomas
Fourth Grade Teachers –
Ms. Laura Getchell
Ms. Vicky Foster
Fifth Grade Teacher –
Ms. Michelle Carlson
1st & 2nd Grade Enrichment –
Ms. Heather Weiss
3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade Enrichment –
Ms. Patty Angel
(An asterisk (*) next to an individual's name indicates they are new to the school.)

Charter Schools – Freedom to Choose

Maybe Reading Edge Academy was closer to your house than your “districted” school, or you simply appreciated being able to have your voice heard when it came to educational emphasis. Whatever the motivation, you chose to enroll your child(ren) at REA. That choice is one of the foundation points on which Charter Schools were first established.

Charter Schools were originally modeled to meet specific community needs – reacting to the social and economic culture of the surrounding neighborhoods, rather than treating all schools and all students with the same set standards. While Charter Schools operate autonomously from many state or county districting guidelines that are mandated to traditional public schools, they do receive state funding based upon student enrollment. This funding allows students to attend without tuition.

Each Charter School functions financially like many businesses.

Similar to the business model there is accountability for achievement, student achievement. Charter Schools answer to the jurisdiction which granted the right to operate a charter with a typical award of 3-5 years of continued operation before review and renewal of the charter. The higher the student achievement, the longer the time between reviews.

With thirteen years of solid student involvement and success, Reading Edge Academy has established itself in West Volusia County as a leader in education, and a contemporary model of the new “public” school model.

Title I – What is it? Why is it?

Title I is a federally funded program for schools having a high percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. In Volusia County, Title I serves 37 elementary, 14 alternative, 10 middle, 12 non-public schools.

Parents and staff jointly develop and implement a Parent Involvement Plan. Once developed parents sign this agreement with the understanding that they, students, and the school are all working to ensure the academic success and improved learning for each child.

Reading Edge Academy's school and district plan are available at the school office for your review. You may also visit the Volusia County Schools website for additional

information:

<http://blackboard.volusia.k12.fl.us/>

A Uniform Look

If you've spent any time at Reading Edge Academy, you've noticed that the students may have their differences, but their clothing forms a united front. As with branches of the United States military and civilian professions ranging from fast food cashiers to professional sports teams, as well as police and emergency personnel, a uniform is one element that can unite a diverse group.

This unity, when applied to the classroom, focuses everyone on learning, rather than distracting everyone with the latest trend. Not only do students perform better without these disruptions, but they also feel a sense of belonging to a community – the Reading Edge Academy Community. And don't worry, there will be plenty of time for individuality and self-expression that doesn't center on wardrobe selections.

It is strongly recommended that you visit the REA website: www.readingedgeacademy.org and familiarize yourself with the current school dress code policy as you would any other school rules so that enforcing any disciplinary actions is not required.

There have been some changes from previous year's policies. If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer to read a printed copy of the policy, please stop by the Front Office.

Remember that with the privilege of choosing to enroll in Reading Edge Academy for the betterment of your child's education comes the responsibility of working with the school to adhere to all rules and regulations.

Note: In keeping with the less disruptive student attire, we ask that all parents volunteering on campus, in or out of the classroom, and for any field trips, adhere to the following:

- 1) refrain from wearing any style of clothing that shows cleavage, or skin around the waistline (front or back), especially when bending over,
- 2) refrain from wearing skin tight clothing that reveals undergarments, or the lack thereof, and
- 3) shorts, dresses, skirts to be a modest length or no more than 2-3 inches above the knee.

Volunteer - /,vɒl.ən'tɪər/

n. (plural – volunteers)

1. one who enters into, or offers for, any service of his/ her free will, especially when done without pay,
2. (in law) a person who acts out of his own will without a legal obligation, such as a donor,
3. a parent of a child attending Reading Edge Academy

reference: [volunteer](#) in [Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary](#). G. & C. Merriam, 1913

The heart and spirit of a Volunteer is one who gives of himself/ herself for the betterment of others. Whether that giving is time, money, expertise, or sometimes just the determination

to figure out a solution when no solution seems to exist, the act of giving seeks no reward. The ability to give is reward enough.

At Reading Edge Academy each family is asked to give 30 hours of time each school year – this can be donated through a variety of organized activities.

Many of our student's parents work outside the home. In acknowledgement of this, volunteer opportunities are setup throughout the school year for participation at the school and at home to help parents fit volunteering into their schedules. Below are a few options for ways to become involved:

- Join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) – this organization meets regularly at the school and provides a forum for discussion about what is occurring at the school, and how to best impact the children's lives.
- School Cleanup Days – come help clean the grounds and the classrooms, prepare for special activities.
- Parent Workshops – Workshops will be held throughout the year to help teachers prepare additional educational and extracurricular activities for the children.
- Event Staffing –
 - Book Fairs
 - Dolphin Dollar Store
 - Fall Family Day
 - November Food Drive
 - Christmas Pageant held prior to Winter Break
 - Santa's Store/ Christmas Shop
 - Spring Field Day

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Family Night
- Popcorn Friday
- At Home Volunteering Opportunities:
 - Box Tops for Education
 - Campbell's Soup labels
 - My Coke Rewards

Remember to always check in at the front office – this allows any volunteers to sign in the visitor/ volunteer log, and track your volunteer hours.

Be advised that many activities can be supported through the purchase of supplies – \$10.00 is the equivalent of 1 hour of volunteer time.

Showing your child that volunteering for them is a worthwhile effort builds confidence, and a desire to volunteer themselves.

Volunteer activities will be highlighted throughout using the website as well as flyers.

Volunteering At the Homefront - In Depth

At a time when most families need a two income family, finding any way to contribute to a child's education can be one more stressful obligation. For those parents that can come to REA events held throughout the school day you are applauded, and earnestly sought. For those parents whose schedules conflict with the school day, the REA faculty, staff, and PTA Board Members understand your obligations, and want to help you succeed in your volunteering efforts, too.

Below is a fuller look at a few of REA's fundraising activities that

can be done from the comfort of your home, and as your schedule permits.

Box Tops for Education



Select manufacturers at your local grocery and retail sales outlets participate in this program and can be identified thanks to the above logo. Simply shop for your household items, clip the Box Top for Education (BtFE) logo, paste the BtFE logo onto school provided entry forms, and then log the time spent pasting the BtFE logos on the entry form as part of your Volunteer Hour Requirement. Feel free to enlist your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help you collect labels. There is also a contribution box in the REA front office where BtFE logos can be dropped off for later entry.

Please note that volunteer hours are only generated by completing the entry forms. Ask at the front desk for entry forms. Return your completed entry forms to the school so that the Box Tops for Education coordinator can send them in for redemption.

To learn more about how Reading Edge Academy can benefit from the BtFE program and which companies participate, visit their website at: <http://www.boxtops4education.com>

Campbell's Soup Labels



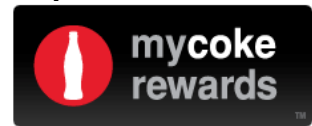
Campbell's Soup labels work similarly to the BtFE program.

Families that would like to participate in this program need to collect, sort, and bundle soup labels for submittal to the Campbell Soup Company.

Check with the PTA for this fundraising program's coordinator for additional information regarding bundling and submittals.

To learn more about how Reading Edge Academy can benefit from the Campbell's program, visit their website at: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/>

My Coke Rewards



Recycle those cans and bottles – but keep the lids/ boxes.

If you have access to the internet, you can establish a rewards account with the Coca-Cola Company and begin logging in reward codes (traditionally found within the lid of bottled products).

Once an account is established and you have begun entering rewards codes, points will be added to your account. (Points are assigned based upon the size/ price of the originally purchased product.) Periodically select that you want to "Spend your points", and you will be able to "Donate to Your School".

Reading Edge Academy is a registered participant, and your point transfer will add to the balance of points available for REA's use. Log on to: <http://MyCokeRewards.com/> and get started.