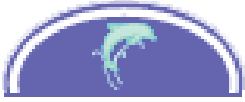




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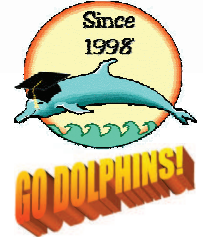
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Back to School

The Christmas trees are at the curb, the Menorahs are put away, the stockings have been de-hung, the dreidles have stopped their spinning, and the fireworks from the New Year's celebrations have all fizzled out – must mean it's time to go back to school!

There are many exciting events planned for the rest of winter and this spring at Reading Edge Academy and we can't wait for everyone to take part.

There are still a number of areas that will need parent involvement so that they are successful. Please check with the office and the website for ways in which you can positively impact your child's education!



MISSION STATEMENT

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



We would like to thank all the Reading Edge Academy families who have participated with the Box Tops for Education.

With all of your help, we have raised over \$1000.00 so far, and the year is not over yet.

Please continue to help by sending in those box tops!!

Webpage Keep Everyone Informed

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



Getting In – Getting Out

Please remember that the school handbook stipulates that traffic on school property and Pond Court is 5 m.p.h. Also, using your mobile phone while driving your car on school property or Pond Court is against school policy. Both activities are grounds for additional volunteer hours being assessed to the families involved. Please drive slowly and wait to make phone calls when not on school grounds. Thank you.

Is getting homework completed a chore?
Do you need help reminding your child of the importance of correctly completing their homework on time? This Top 10 List article just might help...

Top Ten Homework Tips for Parents

Published January 09, 2009
Written By Grace Chen

Whether your child is in elementary, middle, or high school, every child will eventually need clear and consistent help with their homework. As homework can directly impact a child's success in the classroom, as well as his or her overall educational development, a [parent's involvement](#) absolutely provides a child with encouragement, support, and direction. By using positive steps proven to boost student performance, parents can intervene prior to a child's struggles with homework ever begin to surface.

The Importance of Homework in Cognitive Development

While children often perceive homework to be a form of punishment from their teacher, the act of practicing classroom skills at home is an integral part of the developmental process. As Nucleus Learning explains, homework serves a myriad of essential purposes for both instruction and reinforcement. Most fundamentally, homework allows students to practice skills learned in school with

their own autonomous engagement outside of the classroom. As there is a limited amount of time in each school day, children are forced to accept the educational contract that they must put in effort both in and outside of school to master all of the required material.

Adding to this, homework allows students to "Investigate on their own, learn how to find answers to questions, show that the teacher does not have an answer to everything." Homework allows student to more thoroughly learn and understand the material instructed; furthermore, actively engaging in homework teaches students how to become advocates for their own learning, as they can engage in an inquiry-based process of asking questions and seeking out more answers and discoveries.

Further expounding on the importance of homework, Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, the educational author of *Kids, Parents and Power Struggles*, asserts that parents play an immense role in a child's successful engagement and completion of homework assignments. As she explains, "What most people don't realize is how much support their kids need with homework... It isn't something where you can just say, 'He's 10 or 12 or 15, he should just do it.'"

Instead, a parent's foundational support in helping their children understand and practice homework sets the child up for the scaffold of evolving responsibilities. If a child fails to acknowledge his or her responsibilities with completing mandated assignments from their teacher, the child may be heading down a dangerous path of irresponsibility, which can later impact a child's ability to thrive in their first job or professional realms of life.

The Top Ten Homework Tips for Parents

1. Establish a Routine

The first step in creating a positive homework pathway for your child is by primarily creating a routine. This may mean that parents may have to compromise with their child on the working conditions for homework time. As *The Seattle Times* further explicates, "That means helping students designate a set time and place where they can comfortably — and routinely — hit the books without being disturbed. Some families keep the TV off on weeknights and tape favorite shows for weekend watching. Following such a rule consistently, Kurcinka says, may avoid parent-child power struggles." Adding to this, if a child is comfortable independently working in his or her bedroom, then parents may need to allow this freedom and choice of the child; however, if a child's homework is

incomplete or if their grades drop, then parents should immediately step in and enforce a different homework strategy and routine.

2. Create Boundaries

As the homework routine is clearly outlined and consistently enforced, parents should simultaneously create clear boundaries for their child as well. This may entail that a teenager's cell phone must be turned off during homework time, or a child's television or radio must be off until assignments are complete.

3. Get Organized

For younger children, a parent may need to create a homework calendar that both the parent and the child can clearly access and see. This may help a child learn how to plan ahead and create a schedule for long-term elementary and middle school projects. For high school kids, this may mean that a parent talks with their teen about setting progress goals for assignments each day.

4. Accountability and Responsibility

Regardless of a child's age or school grade, a parent must immediately require their child's personal accountability for homework and assignments. Parents should have clear rules about writing down assignments in a notebook, or remembering to bring all necessary homework materials, such as books or calculators, home each night. If a child fails to hold

up their end of the bargain, then the established consequences should be enforced.

5. Create a "Learning Space"

For many children, a "learning space" that is specifically set aside for homework can allow them to mentally enter into a "school mode" when they are at home. This may mean that a small office is stocked with pens, paper, and necessary tools for assignments; however, on the other hand, this also may mean that a child may need to access the library each day for homework (if they are too distracted at home). Regardless of a child's needs, a parent must create a free space for a child to complete assignments without disruptions or distractions.

6. Teach Prioritization

Children are gradually assigned more homework tasks as they progress through the school grades, and parents can intervene and teach children how to prioritize their homework assignments. If a project is due in a week, a parent can help their child to set up a time line for small tasks each day. Or, if a child is feeling overwhelmed, a parent can help their child make a list of everything that must be done, and then number each task in order to prioritize the academic responsibilities.

7. Check Your Child's Progress

While public schools send out report cards and

progress reports, many schools now post grades and homework assignments online. Parents can [Speak with their child's teacher\(s\)](#) about the best ways to check in on the student's progress throughout the semester and school year, so that students are able to consistently perform to their potential without falling behind or struggling.

8. Allow Freedoms When Earned

If a child successfully meets all of the outlined homework rules and expectations, parents can allow certain appropriate freedoms if their child seems to be excelling in their tasks and schoolwork. For example, if a child asks to change their homework time or change their "learning space," parents should experiment with new freedoms as the child gradually excels with their own academic responsibility. As long as the child seems to be successfully comprehending and excelling in academic pursuits and assignments, parents can consider new privileges and rewards for their child's achievements.

9. Be a Study Buddy

Many times, especially when a child feels overwhelmed with a task or assignment, parents can offer support by simply helping their child study. This involves quizzing a child, teaching a child study strategies, or also just helping a child get organized. Sometimes the simple act of giving a child attention during difficult tasks

can boost a child's morale and effort.

10. Encourage and Support

Most importantly, a parent should serve as a motivational academic cheerleader. Homework should not be a punishment or a time that's dreaded. Approach homework with a positive attitude, and consistently reward the child with positive verbal feedback. Children do not require material treats or presents for their success; moreover, children thrive on verbal support and encouragement. For example, if a child consistently does their homework without complaining, remind them each day, "I love how you always do your assignments with such a great attitude. I admire your ability to do what's assigned with such an adult work ethic!" When compliments are specific and meaningful, a child will feel more confident and motivated to continually follow through with his or her responsibilities and performance.

...Article references available upon request...

January – A Brand New Year!

Words to Search:

APRICOT	BACKWARDS	BOWL	BROWNIE	CHINESE	COMPLIMENT
ELLIS	ELVIS	FRANKLIN	GOVERNOR	GRIMM	HUGGING
ISLAND	JANUARY	KAZOO	KING	NELLIE	NEW
OPPOSITE	PECULIAR	POPCORN	PRESLEY	PUZZLE	ROSS
SUPER	TOLKIEN	WOMAN	WORK	YEAR	YODEL

E F B E E M H E A Z P P R E M R D N
 A I U A H L S E O S E R R F Z Z N M
 Y M N L C E L W K C O G E O A B A Z
 W R H W N K O I U B W O X S S I L F
 E B E I O M W L S O A V C D L S S R
 Q Y H P A R I A R W A E D H K E I X
 J C W N U A B B R L B R B X A Y Y O
 A W N E R S X E D D C N B J S R C O
 C O M P L I M E N T S O D D Q A B Z
 E G N I G G U H Y E A R J L E U A A
 E T E X K T O L K I E N D I E N P K
 G B I I X P E P W Z N I L K N A R F
 R F N S Q D O K R O W L D O W J I T
 I G R M O P N W O X E S I V L E C S
 M F Q Y C P S S E N J E O B A L O Z
 M F O O F D P S D N G U M Z P J T H
 N N R I Q Y Z O X Y X O Z T R B E H
 G N P U Z Z L E C D J Y F M N D U K

(January Word Search Solution will be in February Newsletter)

December Word Search Solution

December – Winter Wonderland

X S X B O L I B E Z Y U S K O H K J
 I L Y Z M N Q C M S L N E C A E P O
 S K U S W D K R E Z O H O N X X D Y
 U M S T A R W E Z K S O U M B L J S
 E T U V A C A T I O N K G E R S Y K
 E T G L D G N N X H K N L S A A D J
 Y R N R P D Z I C A R O L S D B H T
 N C E Q I R A W H H Q A G I D Z G V
 B O V S N N A U F V W C L W N K V J
 S M L I E D C G N E G O O R C S H Y
 A A B T W N S H U U H I C A P T T W
 M F I W W J T I L S M T U P K S F G
 T L K O Q R P S B D Y B U P D Y V H
 S Q N T E Q D K Y L E T E I W Q V C
 H S F E T J A Y I B E Q B N F O H E
 R V S M Y M R M J J I Y I G Q O U S
 H Y H O I T A B U Z U A P R R X R J
 C X H H J F E Y Q F S A K E B I N U W

JANUARY

A MONTH OF HISTORY

- January 1 – Ellis Island opens 1892
- January 2 – Boo Boo Bear's Birthday
- January 3 – J.R.R. Tolkien's Birthday
- January 4 – Jakob Grimm's Birthday
- January 5 – First Woman Governor Inaugurated (Nellie Ross – Wyoming 1925)
- January 6 – Sherlock Holmes' Birthday
- January 7 – Old Rock Day
- January 8 – Elvis Presley's Birthday
- January 9 – National Apricot Day
- January 10 – Peculiar People Day
- January 11 – Secret Pal Day
- January 12 – National Pharmacist Day
- January 13 – Rubber Duckie's Birthday
- January 14 – National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- January 15 – 1st Super Bowl – 1967
- January 16 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 17 – Benjamin Franklin's Birthday
- January 18 – Thesaurus Day
- January 19 – Popcorn Day
- January 20 – Inauguration Day
- January 21 – National Hugging Day
- January 22 – National Blonde Brownie Day
- January 23 – Chinese New Year
- January 24 – Compliment Day
- January 25 – Opposite Day
- January 26 – National Kazoo Day
- January 27 – Lewis Carroll's Birthday
- January 28 – Fun at Work Day
- January 29 – National Puzzle Day
- January 30 – Yodel for Your Neighbors Day
- January 31 – Backwards Day

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

From Mr. McGinn,
Assistant Principal

"The Read With Me, Dad" program invites fathers/ male guardians to join this interactive program that encourages them to read to and with their children.

Mr. McGinn, Assistant Principal, will loan fathers/ male guardians a copy of the book, *The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared*, to read and then to make a plan to spend time with their children reading!

They will love you for it!

Books are loaned for one week and must be returned promptly for others to borrow the book. The books can be purchased from Scholastic Books as well.

To enroll in this program: Mr. McGinn can be reached at his e-mail address at school, pmcginn@readingedgeacademy.org or by sending a note with your child to take to the office.

Our children are worth it!!

DOLPHIN ART NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR and
welcome back!!!

"Art is literacy of the heart."
Elliot Eisner

Donations needed: yarn, lace,
ribbon & fabric

Looking for Volunteer Hours??
If you are familiar with digital cameras and would also like to be an Artsonia photographer, please email me at:
pmaffucci@readingedgeacademy.org
Thanks! Mrs. Maffucci

First Grade is Havin' a Blast!

Happy New Year!!

We will do a Black History Project this month. Students will be given the details to be followed.

Progress reports will go home on the 25th.

In Reading we will be working on the long "i" sound, triple consonant blends, contractions with the words not, is, and are.

In Math we will continue to work with weight and capacity.

How animals and plants grow and change will be the concentration in Science, while we explore maps, globes, time, and direction in Social Studies.

First Graders know that everyone had a great holiday season and is ready to get back to work to prepare for the Second Grade!

The First Grade Team

Second Grade

Second grade is back in swing.

After the relaxing Winter Break, we are ready to get back to work.

This semester we are going to start our study of landforms. Try pointing out and discussing landforms around us (rivers, lakes, islands, peninsulas).

We have also been talking about Martin Luther King Jr. The students are learning about civil rights and the importance of being a good citizen.

This semester the curriculum is starting to get more challenging. Our goal is to teach the students to think for themselves. We will be focusing on problem solving and higher-order thinking skills. Ask your child to explain "how"

they got the answer, and "why" it is correct.

As always, thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please email us.

Second Grade Team

Third Grade

Happy New Year and God Bless to all.

We have gotten off to a great New Year's start here in 3rd Grade.

Preparations for the FCAT 2.0 are underway and we are working hard to put our best foot forward. Parents, please continue to look at your child's planner and sign it on a daily basis. This enables me to communicate with you about what is going on in class and what is for homework each night.

Reading for 20 minutes is homework for everyday of the week! Let your child show you how well they read out loud.

In Science we are beginning to learn about Light and how it reflects, refracts, and is absorbed with different objects.

During Social Studies we will explore the world and find where other countries are located on the map as well as learn about their cultures. As always, it is a pleasure to have you email me with any questions. May God Bless you in this New Year!

Sincerely, Mrs. McKinney

Fourth Grade

This is a busy time for our Fourth Grade students.

Many upcoming events are being planned.

First and most important is our FCAT writing preparation. The classes are working very hard to help improve their writing skills. Every Wednesday morning a writing prompt is given, and the students then read the prompt and respond with an essay.

On the fun side, Fourth Grade is sponsoring a sports team t-shirt/ jersey day. This event is taking place on Friday, January, 27th. Bring in your dollar so you will be able to show your team pride.

And tying our fun into our classroom work, we are doing a unit on Florida History in our Social Studies Curriculum. Since Florida's oldest city, St. Augustine, is so close, our classes are taking a Field Trip there on March 15th. The cost of the trip is \$35.00. We know this is high, and that is why Fourth Grade has opened up the "Kitty Cat Closet".

The "Kitty Cat Closet," located in Room 160, and open before school from 7:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m., and after school from 2:00 p.m.-2:45 p.m., has a variety of snacks, drinks, and trinkets.

All items are priced 25 cents to one dollar. Donations of snacks, drinks, chips, etc. are greatly appreciated. All proceeds go to help defer the cost of our Trip to St. Augustine and also go to a scholarship fund.

Fourth Grade Team

Fifth Grade

Happy New Year!!!
Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break with

their family and friends. Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gifts and to those that donated items for our class party. We had a blast!!

This month we will begin discussing how America won her freedom in the Revolutionary War. Students will be assigned a special project where they will construct a diorama depicting one of the battles from the war.

In Reading we will be getting back into our normal routine with our weekly assessments on comprehension skills, vocabulary, and grammar.

In Math, we are finishing up Decimals, and then we will transition into Prime Factorization for two weeks, followed by adding and subtracting fractions.

In Science, we will finish our unit on Matter within the first two weeks of our return, after which we will begin our unit on Energy!

As always, we appreciate your class donations for our Dolphin Dollar Store. Anything you can send in would be great! Don't forget every \$10 spent on donations earns you a volunteer hour and hours must be fulfilled to attend Graduation!

Ms. Carlson (5th grade)
mcarlson@readingedgeacademy.org
Blog: rea5.blogspot.com

Ms. Angel's 3 – 5 Class

Our class recently finished reading The Black Stallion. What a fantastic book! Dioramas depicting a scene from the book will be on display in the cafeteria.

We hope you were able to see the book characters that were on display in the hall in December.

Each student read a book and chose a character to create. The projects were amazing! Parents, thanks for all the assistance and support you give your child!

Upcoming Events

Jan 16 – MLK Day–NO SCHOOL

Jan 24 – Family Bowling Night

Jan 25 – Progress Reports

Feb 6-10 – Book Fair

Spring Silent Auction – Date TBD

– We will need volunteers, but we also need donations to auction. Please let us know if you have a business or know someone who would like to donate to our silent auction. Donated items count towards your hours!

+++++

"Raise a Reader" Reminder

Reading Edge is registered in a reading contest, "Raise-a-Reader," which encourages our parents to encourage our students to read, with the winning school getting \$5,000 for their library.

The contest runs from until January 30, 2012 with parents/legal guardians logging on to our school page on the contest website to record minutes read by their students.

IMPORTANT CONTEST INFORMATION

*Website for Home Page for contest:
www.parents.com/raise-a-reader

* Link for parents/students/staff to check minutes:
www.parents.com/reading/readingedgeacademydebfl