Programs to Increase Parent Involvement in Literacy: Building the Home-School Connection

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Midd-West School District
3 elementary schools
2 middle schools
1 high school
225 square miles
IU 16

Title I: K-5 Reading
2005-06 $528,911
2006-07 $521,650 *(+ $30,000 reallocated funds)
2007-08 $498,876 *(+ $3,000 Academic Achievement)
2008-09 $490,609 *(+ $6800 Academic Achievement and
$289,527 ARRA Title I)
2010-11 $484,966
2011-12 $477,784

PSSA Scores in Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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The Impact of Home-School Connections on Student Achievement

- Programs and interventions that engage families in supporting their children’s learning at home are linked to improved student achievement.
  

- Family and community involvement that is linked to student learning has a greater effect on achievement than more general forms of involvement.
  

The Impact of Home-School Connections on Student Achievement

- Families of all cultural backgrounds, education, and income levels can, and often do, have a positive influence on their children’s learning.
  

- Programs that successfully connect with families and community invite involvement, are welcoming, and address specific parental and community needs.
  
Consolidated Review Resources

Parent Involvement:
http://www.spac.k12.pa.us

FROM COMPLIANCE TO EFFECTIVE PRACTICES (RUBRIC)

Building/District Parent Involvement Documentation

BEFORE:
- Complete Preliminary Planning Sheet
- Announce event on website
- Invitation Notice – to parents
- Reminder Notice – to parents
- Agenda
- Sign-in sheet
- To-do list

DURING:
- Complete agenda items
- Take photos
- Completed Parent Survey is a ticket for the student to get a prize (book, pencil, door prize, etc.)
Building/District Parent Involvement Documentation

**AFTER:**
- Fill out Summary Activity sheets
- Create Display boards
- Send articles to the local newspaper
- Clip newspaper articles
- File all the above for Program files
- Send Thank You for Attending notes
- Copy articles – send them home
- Phone calls home

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5 Parent Involvement Programs

- Froggy Games
- Dr. Seuss Carnival
- Book Bingo
- Reading Rodeo Fluency Night
- Family Contests
- More Parent Involvement Ideas

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Froggy Game Family Night
Froggy Game Family Night

- Event takes about an hour
- Seat children by grade level - it is easier to hand out games
- Have children perform songs or nursery rhymes
- Explain games
- Play for 15-20 minutes
- Take photos of each family
- Snack and door prizes

Weekly Froggy Games

- Send home weekly (Wednesday-Tuesday)
- Ongoing activity from Sept-May
- Play with parent - must sign sheet
- Parent Volunteers (Frogettes) check in the games, reissue games, count cards, clean the games, and distribute the games to classrooms
- Mid-year parent survey for feedback and comments (in kit)

Frog Family Packs

- Games for K-5
- Can’t afford games for all levels?
  - Buy one or two levels
  - Focus on primary first
  - Add kits as you have funds available
  - Possibly combine funds from Title 1 and PTO

*The company also makes classroom packs.
*Math as well as reading games available
*Games available in English and Spanish
Dr. Seuss Read Across America Carnival

Collaborative effort with Boy Scouts

Parent Volunteers—during the day

Dr. Seuss Family Night Carnival

Working together

Boy Scouts, staff, and community groups volunteer at night
Dr. Seuss Carnival Games

500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins

Green Eggs and Ham

I Can Read With My Eyes Shut
Fox in Socks 1 Fish 2 Fish

The Cat in the Hat - purchased from Target

Books Used for Carnival

- *The Lorax, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, Horton Hears a Who, Would You Rather Be a Bullfrog, Thidwick, the Big-Hearted Moose, The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins, Green Eggs and Ham, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut, 1 Fish, 2 Fish, Bartholomew and the Oobleck and The Cat in the Hat.*

- Children wear necklaces with games listed. Mark points at each game. Count up points to earn Chinese Auction tickets.
Read Across America Week

- Parents as Guest Readers
- Froggy Game Time
- Green Eggs and Ham Lunch
- Daily slogans
- Dr. Seuss Door Decorating Contest
  (all guests are invited to judge doors)
- Read Across America Assembly
  - Classroom Poems, Cheers, Choral Readings
  - Read and perform skits of Dr. Seuss books
  - Grand Finale: Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?

Book Bingo Family Night
Book Bingo Family Night

- Purchased Bingo wheel from Wal-mart
- Use navy beans or shucked field corn
- Borrow Bingo cards from Fire Hall, Church, or Community Groups
- Link Book Bingo with Comprehension
  - Questioning Card Packet
  - Parent Tips Bookmark (readingmatters.net) of Before-During-After Reading Questions
  - Strategies emphasized by your district
  - Include bookmarks with strategies or fun for students

Book Bingo

- Small Group
  - Multiple winners before you clear card
  - Win books (then pencils, etc. depending on resources)
  - Mark down who wins
  - Periodically call “Door Prize Winners” for those who have not won yet
  - Take photos
  - Snack

Large Group Book Bingo

- Your choice if parents can win or not (You could have parent prizes)
- When someone wins- whole table wins
- Mark down winning tables
- Winner can also pick another table to win
  - Hold out cards to pick from- remove those tables that have already won
Reading Rodeo Fluency Fun Night

DEMO, READ, PHOTOS, FUN

Reading Rodeo Procedure

Sign In
- Reading Rodeo bag, cowboy hat, Fluency Folder by grade, sign up for door prize

Before Program
- Decorate folder with cowboy stickers from Oriental Trader

During Program
- Demonstration by each grade level
- Explain folders and calendars
- 20 minutes to read in Fluency Folders
- Take photos of each child reading with parent or partner
- Take photos on saddle and using cowboy cutout while children eat snacks
- Encourage parents to take photos
- Parent survey is a ticket for a prize (book, pencil, bookmark)
- Award door prizes and Thank everyone for attending
Reading Rodeo Procedure

After program
- Write news article
- Send home Thank you note with photos
- Get prizes for returned calendars

Resources

Upstart
PO BOX 5207
Janeville, WI 53547-5207
1-800-448-4887
www.upstartpromotions.com

Oriental Trading
PO BOX 2308
Omaha NE 68103-2308
1-800-228-2269
www.orientaltrading.com

Tips

- Parent must fill out parent survey so child can collect a prize
- Take lots of photos
- Send home Thank You note with photo
- Create display boards of photos
Visit Mrs. Poeth’s Web Site

Directions to Web Page
- www.mwsd.cc
- Schools
- West Beaver
- Teacher Websites
- Mrs. Poeth’s Reading Tidbits

More Parent Involvement Ideas
- Family Contests
- Monthly Reading Themes
- April Is Families and Reading Month
- AR (Accelerated Reader) Family Night
- Student Showcase and Annual Title 1 Meeting
Monthly Family Contests

- ALPHABET RIDDLE CONTEST
- SPOOKTACULAR RIDDLE CONTEST
- TURKEY TRIVIA CONTEST
- TOM TURKEY’S TONGUE TWISTERS
- CHRISTMAS TRIVIA CONTESTS
- PERSONAL POEM CONTEST
- DR. SEUSS CONTESTS

KICK OFF READING THEME IDEAS

- RACE INTO READING
- JOIN SPIDERMAN AND READ! GET CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF READING
- READ A BOOK AND DO THE HAPPY FEET DANCE!
- READING IS DYNAMITE!
- BE A GOOD SPORT, READ!
- JOIN THE READING RODEO! YEE HAW!

Monthly Reading Themes

- New theme bi-monthly or quarterly
- Read a Book
- Create a Project to be displayed in the library—posters, shoebox displays, mobiles, reports, video or cassette commercial, fact cubes, and more
- Write at least 4 sentences describing the plot of the book. All sentences must be neatly written with correct spelling and punctuation. The projects must include the title and author of the book. Don’t forget to add your full name.
Monthly Reading Themes

April Is Families and Reading Month

Activity Calendar – KSRA
- Read for 15 minutes each day
- Initial the calendar each day your child reads
- Return signed calendar the first week in May
- Child's name will be displayed on bulletin board
- Child will receive certificate of participation

Turn Off the TV – PANA

AR (Accelerated Reader)
Family Night
Student Showcase/Parent Informational Daytime Program

Other Possibilities

- Study Island Parent/Child Night
- PSSA Informational Session for Parents
- PSSA Game Night Session
- Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader (or whichever grade) Fun Night
- Extra-curricular position for PR in each building
- News Reporter Club- students create articles for website and submit to newspapers
- Call home with good news or copy news article and send them home

Motivators

- Morning Announcements
- Lunchtime Recognition
- Cheers
- Display Boards
- Bulletin Boards
- Certificates
- Photo Sessions
Public Relations

Photos, Photos, Photos- Display boards in school
Thank you letters sent home (with photo if possible)
Newspaper Articles and newsletter articles
Announcements
Phone Calls
Websites
Emails

Kay’s Mottos

“If you don't ask, they can't say YES!”

“Make a difference- one parent at a time!”
Resources

- The Parent Institute
- Wal-Mart Community Grants
- Dominos Certificates
- Applebee's Kid Meal Certificates
- Garfield's - Crayons
- Other Local Restaurants
- Target - Display items
- Local Businesses

PUBLICATIONS

ED Publications
ED publications are available throughout our website. New or recent publications may be ordered through ED Pubs. Older and out-of-print publications may be found in ED Publications in ERIC.

Features
ED Newsletters
Updates on NCLB, innovations, research, statistics, teaching resources, funding opportunities, and more.

Performance Reports
Reports on the performance and accountability of ED programs.

Helping Your Child
Help children become strong readers, good students, and responsible citizens.

Innovations in Education
Choice, supplemental services, charter and magnet schools, and alternative paths to teaching and school leadership.

Recursos en español
Education resources for Spanish speakers.

Healthy Start, Grow Smart
Twelve booklets, each focused on one month in a baby's first year.

Helping Your Child series
- Become a Reader
- With Mathematics
- With Homework
- Toddlers
- other titles

Shining Stars
- Toddlers - Get Ready to Read
- Kindergarten - Learn to Read
- First Graders - Learn to Read
- Second and Third Graders - Learn to Read

A Child Becomes A Reader - 2 versions for parents