



# Washington Wilderness Digest

Feb, 2015



Dates to Remember:

February:

5th 5:00 PTAC

13th 4:00-7:00 Carnival

Office Reminders:

Book and Material

fee reminders for

those that have not

paid have been sent

home with your stu-

dent's progress re-

ports.

*Inclment weather*

announcements will be

shared via media stations

as well as websites and

Skylert. Please make sure

your student's information

is up to date in Skyward

to receive these alerts.



Like "the Washington Wolves" on Facebook to learn more from the PTAC!



Family fun can be dinner around the kitchen table, playing a card game, or watching Saturday morning cartoons together.

Our Washington Family Fun Night, AKA, School Carnival is just around the corner. Join us on February 13th, from 4:00-7:00 for an evening filled with games, food, raffle baskets, and just good old fashion family fun.

Game access all night will be sold at the door for \$5.00. Subway and Rocky's pizza will be available for dinner. Raffle baskets from local business and family donations will also be sold.

Hope to see you there!



## Leader of the Pack Focus

Each month we are focusing on an area to build Respectful,

Responsible, and Safe students. During the month of February

we will be focusing on Spreading Kindness. Students will be par-

ticipating in Jump Rope for Heart and will also think of ways that

they can spread kindness at school, home and in the community.

The Wood County UW Extension office will be hosting a series of classes designed to teach Basic Cooking & Shopping skills. Below is a short explanation of these classes, including the dates and times.

### Shop & Chop - Basic Cooking & Shopping Skills

The Wood County UW Extension office is providing parents with an opportunity to learn basic cooking & shopping skills. The classes will cover topics such as meal planning, nutrition basics, food handling safety and budgeting! Classes will be held on the following Mondays: February 16, 23 and March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30-5:30pm at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Parents who attend all of the sessions will receive a cookbook, shopping bag and \$10 store gift card. To register, call the Wood County UW Extension office at 715.421.8437 or email familyliving@co.wood.wi.us



Congratulations to our Students who's artwork is going to state: Kayden Edmundson, Zeynep Akyurt, Jimmy Weiker! You're invited! Please join us for our annual Youth Art Month Celebration to celebrate young artists from across the state of Wisconsin!

Friday, March 6, 2015 12:00 PM—1:00 PM

Wisconsin Capital Building Rotunda

## Counselors Corner: Kindness Matters!

No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted. ~ Aesop

### *Model Kindness*

It doesn't have to be big acts of charity, just make sure that the helpful things you do are genuine. It can be anything from getting a neighbor's mail, volunteering in the community as a family or putting a note in your child's backpack. Any moment can be a teachable one!

### *Read About It*

Kids love listening to stories and are often able to relate to the characters. Read books that focus on positive traits and kindness. For a place to start, check out <http://www.librarything.com/tag/kindness> for ideas.

### *The Golden Rule*

Treat others the way you want to be treated. Explain that a simple way to determine if you are acting kindly is to always ask yourself before you act, "Would I want someone to treat me like that?" Or "Would you want someone to say no if you asked to join in on a game?" This will help kids to think about their behavior and its consequences in terms of other people's feelings.

### *I-Messages*

Encourage your child to talk about their feelings with their friends and use I-Messages to express their feelings in a positive and kind way. I feel \_\_\_\_\_ when you \_\_\_\_\_ please stop \_\_\_\_\_. This encourages clear communication and offers a suggestion for improving the situation or problem.

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

February 2015

Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Groundhog Gets a Say*

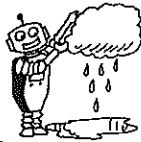
(Pamela Curtis Swallow)

Groundhog is tired of being famous just for predicting the weather, so he tells a reporter other interesting things about himself. For example, groundhogs whistle when they're in danger, create a "bathroom" in their burrows, and have teeth strong enough to gnaw through rocks.

### ■ *Once Upon an Alphabet: Short Stories for All the Letters*

(Oliver Jeffers)

Read a quirky story about each letter of the alphabet. J is about a door made of jelly, R features robots who steal rain clouds, and S has a cucumber that wants to be a sea cucumber. Enjoy your child's laughter as he learns about the sounds that letters make.



### ■ *A Tree Is Nice* (Janice May Udry)

What can you do with a tree? This book is full of fun—and practical—purposes for trees. Your youngster might nap in its shade or jump into piles of its leaves, for example. The story encourages readers to appreciate and care for trees. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Locomotive* (Brian Floca)

Fact and fiction blend together as a family travels across America on the brand-new transcontinental railroad. Readers will find out how the railroad was built, how steam power works, and what the landscape looked like.



## Build a rich vocabulary

It's simple: The more words your child knows, the more words she will understand and use when she reads, writes, and talks. Here are ways to weave new vocabulary into conversations at home.

### Word choices

"Put on your pajamas." "Please close the door." If you're like most families, much of what you say to your youngster revolves around the details of daily life. When possible, try using bigger or more interesting words. Talk about *evaporation* while waiting for water to boil. While you're doing her hair, have a conversation about *inherited traits* like having curly hair.

### Playtime talk

Imaginary situations give your child the chance to use words that might not come up in regular discussions. Join her as she plays veterinarian or airport, and say, "Could you please *examine* my pet



rhinoceros?" or "I'd like to travel to a warm *destination*."

### Grown-up conversations

Include your youngster in some adult conversations. She'll feel grown up, and she'll enjoy hearing and trying out new words. When guests visit, ask questions that invite her to join the discussion. *Examples:* "I loved the movie. What was your *opinion* of it?" "Would you like a *pastry*? We have muffins and scones."♥

## Biographies 1-2-3

Your child can learn all kinds of facts from biographies—and enjoy these three benefits.

**1. Exploring nonfiction.** Kids are now reading more nonfiction in school, and picture biographies are a good way to read nonfiction at home. Your youngster could choose books about people who interest him, such as artists or scientists.

**2. Discovering history.** Encourage your child to read biographies of historical figures he studies in school. He'll dig deeper into the past as he uncovers information about their hobbies, families, and jobs.

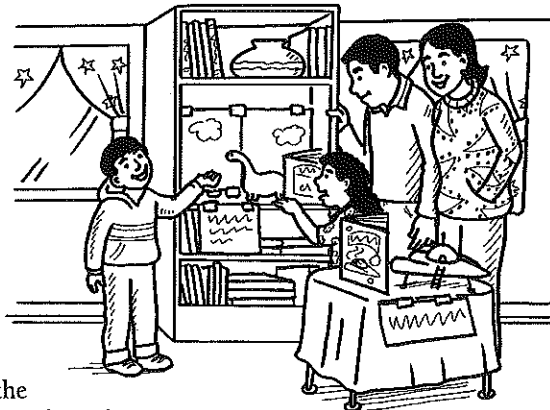
**3. Learning about good character.** Biographies often describe how people overcame challenges or made a difference in the world. As your youngster reads, ask him to tell you about the person's good character traits.♥



# A storybook museum

Let your youngster display his favorite books in his very own museum. He will pay attention to characters and settings—and practice retelling stories—as he sets up and shares his exhibits.

- **Find characters.** Ask your child to think about the people and animals in the story. Then, he can gather action figures and toy dinosaurs, aliens, or other creatures to represent them.
- **Design a setting.** Next, he could decorate a tabletop or bookcase shelf to show the setting. For a story set in outer



space, he might line a shelf with black construction paper and line up different-sized balls as planets.

- **Add a plaque.** Help your youngster make a sign describing his exhibit. He can include the title and author along with a few important details from the book. *Tip:* Make sure he displays the book, too.
- **Give a "tour."** Finally, ask him to take you on a tour of his museum. He'll practice retelling as he describes the story and his exhibit.

*Idea:* He could rotate his displays by choosing a new book each week.♥



## Fun with Words All in the family

What do *band*, *land*, and *sand* have in common? They're all members of the *-and* family. And if your child can write one word in a family, it'll be easier for her to write the rest of them.



First, help her think of a word that has a lot of rhymes, such as *shake*.

She could go through the alphabet and

try putting each letter in place of *sh* (*bake*, *cake*, *fake*, *lake*, *make*). Let her write down the words she comes up with.

Together, use the words to write a silly rhyming story. *Example:* "I'm going to bake a cake. Let's eat the cake I make. I promise it's not fake! We'll have it with a vanilla shake."

Take turns thinking of more word families, and make up more stories.♥

## Q&A Fit in more reading

Q Our evenings are so busy. How can we find more time to read with our daughter?

A Try reading a "wake-up" story. Start your morning with a read-aloud, and your child will look forward to waking up and enjoying a story with you. You could even listen to an audio book together while you eat breakfast.



Also, travel with books. Stash some in a tote bag in the car, and encourage your daughter to keep a few in her backpack. That way, she will always have something with her to read.

Finally, think short and sweet. When there isn't time for an entire book, stop to read a handful of poems, a few pages of a world record book, an article from a children's magazine, or some knock-knock jokes.♥

## Help wanted!

It's chore time—and it's also time to read and write! Try these suggestions, and you may find your youngster more motivated to do chores.

### Create ads

"Advertise" for special jobs your child can do. You might write, "Hardworking child needed to straighten up the linen closet" or "Super cleaner wanted to help organize the garage." Post the ad on the refrigerator, and help your youngster read it.

### Make a checklist

Together, talk about everyday ways your youngster could pitch in around the house. Agree on a few, and have him list them on a piece of paper. He will keep track of chores and practice writing words like *table*, *clean*, and *kitchen*. Let him draw a box beside each chore to check off when he finishes.♥



**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  
www.rfeonline.com  
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# Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools

## 4- and 5-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

### 2014-2015 School Year



#### 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

- ◆ Your child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2014.
- ◆ At the time of registration you will be able to indicate your site preference. Tentative sites for the 2014-15 school year are Building Blocks Learning Center, Grant, Grove, Lots of Tots, Mead, THINK, Vesper, St. Lawrence, and Woodside, as well as Biron and West Side Head Starts (Head Start students only).
- ◆ For questions about 4-year-old kindergarten call Kelly Schaeffer at 715-424-6788, ext. 2701 or Ann Killian at 715-424-6721, ext. 1058.
- ◆ Parents may register at any of the eight elementary schools listed below or at Building Blocks Learning Center, Lots of Tots, St. Lawrence, or Biron/West Side Head Starts (Head Start parents)

#### 5-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

- ◆ Your child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2014.
- ◆ Parents must register at their public school attendance site. If you are not sure of your attendance site, please call Jody Gruber at 715-424-6704.
- ◆ If your child is currently enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten, you do not need to register for 5-year-old kindergarten on the dates listed below. Your child should have brought home a registration packet for you to complete and return to their current 4-year-old kindergarten teacher. If not, please ask your child's teacher.

Grant Elementary – Grove Elementary – Howe Elementary – Mead Elementary Charter – THINK Academy  
 Vesper Community Academy – Washington Elementary – Woodside Elementary

For all registrants, bring these items with you:

- ✓ Your child's certified birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, or immigration certificate
- ✓ Immunization record

Registration Dates are: Thursday - February 20, 2014 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Friday - February 21, 2014 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**AGAIN THIS YEAR** – For your convenience, you may pre-print your registration documents and complete preliminary paperwork at home. Please visit our website at [www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org) for further information.