



# Washington Wilderness Digest

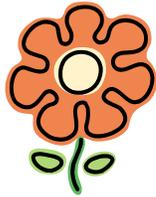
April 2015



Dates to Remember:

April

- 6th—Return to School
- 10th Report Cards Go Home
- 16th—PTAC meeting
- 23rd—Portfolio Night



This year portfolio night will on April 23rd from 4:00-6:00. This evening will be filled with family activities to share with your Washington student. Along with classroom sharing, Science will be showcased throughout the building as well.

Please come ready to explore and perhaps buy some books from our, PTAC sponsored, book fair. All proceeds go directly back to the purchase of classroom books.



*Students at Washington raised \$2500.00 for Jump Rope for Heart this year! Students learned about heart health and how to stay healthy. The money raised went to the American Heart Association to help families fight heart disease.*

*Thank you Washington students and families.*

Please keep in mind students should be in their classrooms at the 8:40 bell.

If your child is ill please contact the attendance line at 715-424-6765.

Please contact the office with any changes in pick by 1:00 P.M. at 715-424-6788. Thank you!



## Leader of the Pack Focus

Each month we are focusing on an area to build Respectful, Responsible, and Safe students. During the month of April students and staff will be Sprucing UP Washington and our surrounding community. Each grade level will take on a task to help make Washington the best it can be!



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



## Calling All Gardeners.

Last call for garden adoption or tending a garden is April 10th.



The Community Gardens at Washington School have been a success in the past. Washington families have done an amazing job growing and harvesting vegetables. We have a few families that have signed up to adopt and/or tend a garden bed for this upcoming planting season. There are a few beds still available. If you are interested, please stop by the office or contact your child's teacher for

more information  
by April 10th.  
Happy Growing!



"*Battle of the Books*" is a state reading competition which some Washington 4<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in this year. Book selection is made prior to the start of school by a state "*Battle of the Books*" committee. Titles vary in length and reading level. Students at Washington began reading the selected titles in October. As they read, they kept notes, recorded summaries, and participated in some group discussions about the books, all in an effort to help with future recall.

Students who participated were: Colleen Bronson, Avery Chipman, Maria Kildahl, Ben Klingforth, Seth O'Day, Izzy Rasmussen, Marcos Simonson, Trina Bores, Teal Lucas, Evan Mathews and Elliot Schultz.

The eleven participants were placed on three teams and competed against each other to determine a school team winner. The team that was crowned our school champion went on to represent Washington at the state level of the competition on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and competed against other 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from different schools throughout Wisconsin.

We received results on March 11<sup>th</sup> and learned that Elliott, Evan, Teal, and Trina, our state competitors, came in 27<sup>th</sup> place out of 157 teams.

**Congratulations** to all of our participants! Job well done!

## How to Keep Kids on Task When Spring Fever is in the Air

It's harder for kids to stay focused when they know the end of the year is coming. Below are some tips for keeping your kids focused until the end of the school year.

- \* Days are longer but bedtimes should remain consistent.

- \* Continue with your family's routines as much as possible (homework, dinner & bedtimes).

- \* Learn a little outdoors. Let your children read or do homework outside when the weather is nice.

Incorporate the "when you" rule. "When you finish your homework you are welcome to go to Nathan's house." Or "When your homework is completed, we can discuss playing outside or watching that show you wanted to see."

- \* Engage your children at the dinner table by asking questions about their day.

- \* Plan some fun outdoors activities to do as a family.

- \* Find time to relax and schedule some downtime.

- \* Remember to stress the importance of school and staying focused until the end of the school year.

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

April 2015

Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools

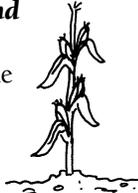
## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Up, Down, and Around*

(Katherine Ayres)

Corn grows up toward the sky, but beets grow down into the ground. This nonfiction book introduces your child to plants and prepositions at the same time, as she sees the different directions that vegetables grow. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Ellison the Elephant*

(Eric Drachman)

Ellison can't produce a trumpet sound like his sister or his friends do. His mother tries to reassure him that being different makes him special. But the other elephants tease him for the quiet toot that comes out of his trunk. Includes a CD that lets children hear the "jazzy" sound that Ellison learns to make.



### ■ *The Lost Lunch* (Lori Mortensen)

This graphic novel for early readers begins by showing kids how to read a comic strip-style book. Then, find out what happens when Ethan can't find his lunch and his friend Dylan helps him look for it. Part of the My First Graphic Novel series.

### ■ *A Book for Black-Eyed Susan*

(Judy Young)

Ten-year-old Cora is heading west in a wagon train with her family. Along the way, she discovers that being with her brand-new baby sister can help her cope with the terrible tragedy she suffers. A story about the difficulties and joys of pioneer days.



## Let's go for a reading walk

It's springtime—the perfect time to go for a walk. Why not make it a reading walk? Here are fun ways your child can read words in her environment while you enjoy the outdoors together.

### Match the card

Before heading out, help your youngster write words on index cards to match ones she might see. For a walk downtown, she could write *main* and *sale* or draw street signs and store logos. If you're going to the park, her cards may include words like *trail* and *playground*. As you walk, have her search for each word, read it aloud, and hand the card to you. Can she match all of her cards?

### Fit a category

Ask your child to think of a category and look around for words that fit. She might want to find words about colors, math, or sports. If she picks math words, for instance, she may read *one* way, town *square*, and *half* price. On your next walk,

she can choose a different category. She could keep track of how many words she reads for each one and declare her most popular category!

### Spot little words

Encourage your youngster to look for little words within big ones—a strategy that can help her read longer words. Look for a long word like *department* or *transportation*. Together, see how many small words you can find in it, such as *part*, *art*, *men*, and *depart* in *department*.♥



## "And the teddy bear said ..."

Teddy bear...lizard...bald eagle...any stuffed animal can star in this family storytelling activity. You'll boost your youngster's language skills as you make up a story together.

**1. Develop your character.** Let your child select a stuffed animal (say, a chameleon), and take a few minutes to "get to know" it. You could each name character traits or describe its appearance. *Examples:* Colorful, changeable, quick.

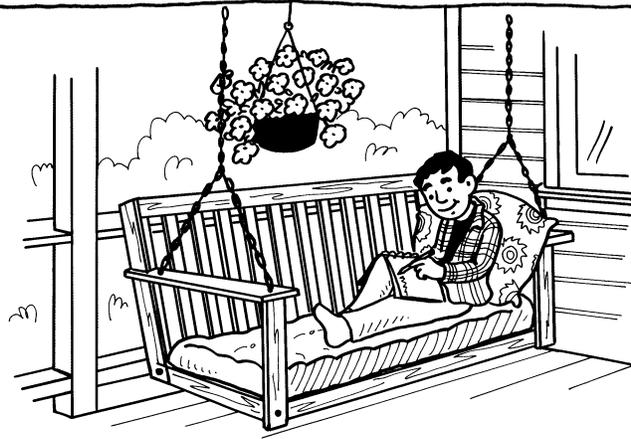
**2. Tell a story.** Your youngster can start the tale. ("Once upon a time, there was a chameleon that slithered quickly across the rocks.") Then, he tosses the stuffed animal to the next person, who continues the plot. Keep "tossing and telling" until someone wraps up the story.♥



# My writer's notebook

A writer's notebook can inspire your youngster to write every day. Give him a notebook, and let him decorate the cover. Then, share these ideas.

**Onomatopoeia.** It's fun to say and write words that sound like their meanings. Your child might list ones such as *boom*, *hiss*, and *crunch*.



**Heart map.** This big heart is filled with all the things your youngster loves. Let him draw a heart that fills a page. Inside it, he can illustrate and label his favorite things (*family*, *mountains*, *music*).

**Jokes.** Help your child write down jokes he hears or thinks up. He

could draw a funny picture to go with each one.

**Questions.** Does your youngster wonder why apple slices turn brown or why puddles disappear? When he asks a question, have him jot it down. Help him look it up in a book or online so he can add the answer.♥

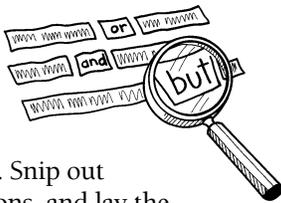
## Fun with Words

### The case of the missing conjunctions



*Or*, *and*, or *but*? One of these words is missing from each sentence in this game. Let your little detective crack the case—and learn about conjunctions (words that link other words or clauses).

Cut out three sentences from a magazine that include *or*, *and*, or *but*. Snip out the conjunctions, and lay the remaining sentence pieces on a table. Now, write those conjunctions on separate slips of paper, and hide them around the room. Your child can use a magnifying glass (or her super x-ray vision) to find the missing words.



Then, help her decide which conjunction goes where. Explain that *and* means both (“She eats apples *and* oranges”), *or* means one or the other (“Should we walk *or* bike?”), and *but* explains a difference (“I want a pet hamster, *but* Mom said no”). Once all the conjunctions are in place, help her read the complete sentences. Case solved!♥

#### 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  
ISSN 1540-5648

## Q&A Create a home library

**Q** I'm looking for inexpensive ways to help our daughter build a book collection. What do you suggest?

**A** Warmer weather means more yard sales and garage sales—and more chances to add used books to your daughter's shelves. Shop together so she can pick out books she'll want to read.

Any time of year, you'll find bargains at used bookstores, thrift shops, library book sales, and online bookstores. You could also ask relatives and neighbors to pass down books their children have outgrown. Your daughter may find it special to own books that her cousins or the “big kids” in the neighborhood used to read.

It's nice to get a few new books, too. For inexpensive ones, attend the school book fair and watch for the book-club catalogs that your daughter brings home.♥



## Parent to Parent Celebrate poetry

My son's class is celebrating National Poetry Month this April, and his teacher sent home great ideas for poetry activities to do as a family.

Liam was excited to pick a few. First, he wanted to plan a poetry picnic. We checked out children's poetry books from the library, packed sandwiches and fruit, and went into our backyard. As we ate, we took turns reading poems aloud.



We also loved the teacher's “poem-in-your-pocket” idea. We each wrote down a poem, folded it up, and put it in our pocket to share with classmates or coworkers.

Liam enjoyed sharing Shel Silverstein's “Ice Cream Stop” with the server at our local ice cream shop—and I liked that he's discovering how much fun it is to read poetry.♥



# April 2015 - Elementary Lunch Menu

All Meals Offer 8oz Serving of Milk - Choices Include - 1%, Skim, Skim Chocolate

Menu Items Subject To Change

Cold Meat And Ham Items are Made with Turkey Meat

## Daily Lunch Prices

Elementary K-5 - \$1.95

WRAMS - \$2.15 EJH / LHS - \$2.35

Adult - \$3.10

Extra Milk / Juice - \$0.35

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 SPRING BREAK	2 SPRING BREAK	3 SPRING BREAK
6 <b>1*Sloppy Joe / Whole Grain Bun</b> Baked french fries Green Beans Mandarin Oranges  <b>2*Turkey Hot Dog / Whole Grain Bun</b>	7 <b>1*Whole Grain Cheese Filled Breadsticks / Pizza Sauce</b> Cooked Carrots Corn Pineapple Tidbits  <b>2*Whole Grain Ham Sandwich</b>	8 <b>1*Homemade Chili</b> Whole Grain Rotini Romaine / Spinach Salad Low Fat Dressing California Blend Veggies Fresh Fruit <b>2*Yogurt / String Cheese</b>	9 <b>1*Popcorn Chicken / sauces</b> Cut Sweet Potatoes Broccoli cuts Sliced Peaches Whole Grain Breadstick  <b>2*Crunchy Fish Sticks</b>	10 <b>1*Hamburger on Whole Grain Bun</b> Vegetarian Baked Beans Fresh Cauliflower / Low Fat Dip Applesauce  <b>2*Grilled Chicken Patty / Bun</b>
13 <b>1* Cheese Quesadilla</b> Oriental Veggies Fresh Carrots / Low Fat Ranch Canned Pears  <b>2*Whole Grain Turkey Stacker</b>	14 <b>1*Mini Turkey Corn Dogs</b> Sweet Potato Fries Peas Fresh Fruit  <b>2*Whole Grain Ham Stacker</b>	15 <b>1*Italian Meatsauce</b> Whole Grain Spaghetti Corn Lettuce Salad / Dressing Mixed Fruit Whole Grain Breadstick <b>2*Chicken Teriyaki Bites</b>	16 <b>1*Soft Shell Beef Taco / Cheese</b> Shredded Lettuce / Tomatoes Refried Beans Salsa Fresh Fruit  <b>2*Whole Grain Turkey Stacker</b>	17 <b>1*Baked Chicken Nuggets / Sauces / Whole Grain Roll</b> Broccoli Cuts Fresh Cucumbers / Low Fat Dip Sliced Peaches  <b>2*Honey BBQ Beef Rib Patty / Bun</b>
20 <b>1*Hamburger / Whole Grain Bun</b> Calico Baked Beans California Blend Veggies Pickles Fresh Fruit  <b>2*Whole Grain Ham Stacker</b>	21 <b>1*Whole Grain Toasted Cheese Sandwich</b> Tomato Soup Fresh Carrots / Low Fat Dip Pineapple Tidbits  <b>2*Whole Grain Turkey Sandwich</b>	22 <b>1*Lasagna</b> Green Beans Fresh Cauliflower & Green Pepper / Low Fat Dip Applesauce Whole Grain Roll <b>2*Yogurt / String cheese</b>	23 <b>1*Diced Chicken in Gravy</b> Mashed Potato Broccoli Cuts Fresh Fruit Whole Grain Bun  <b>2*Fish Nuggets</b>	24 <b>1*Portesi Italian Cheese Flatbread / Pizza Sauce</b> Romaine / Spinach Salad / dressing Cauliflower Mandarin Oranges  <b>2*Grilled Chicken Patty / Bun</b>
27 <b>1* Cheese Omelet</b> Whole Grain Pancakes / Syrup Hashbrowns Fresh Cucumbers / Low Fat Dip Fruit Juice  <b>2*Yogurt / String Cheese</b>	28 <b>1* Whole Grain Nachos w/ Ground Beef &amp; Cheese</b> Tomatoes / Lettuce Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit <b>2*Whole Grain Ham Stacker</b>	29 <b>1*Hamburger / Whole Grain Bun</b> Corn Sweet Potato Fries Pickles Fruit  <b>2*Whole Grain Turkey Stacker</b>	30 <b>1*Whole Grain Pizza</b> Fresh Carrots / Low Fat Dip Green Beans Fresh Fruit  <b>2* Turkey Burger / Whole Grain Bun</b>	

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.