

December 13, 2011

Quarter 2, Week 9

CPSC Weekly Update

...words of wisdom from John and important dates to remember

From the Director...

Dear CPSC Families,

I wanted to follow up on the Weekly Update from two weeks ago regarding the powerful impact of reading to your child during the first years of elementary school by answering the question, "When do you stop reading nightly with your child?" Our teachers, board members and administration believe in reading with your child not just during kindergarten through second grade, but through fifth grade. It's the time you spend with your child every night, taking turns reading and asking questions, that makes the difference in further developing reading fluency and comprehension skills. For parents of second through fifth graders, allowing silent reading for half hour or more, really isn't enough. Below are some resources to inspire and help you find different ways to read with your child(ren):

- **Mem Fox's Ten Read Aloud Commandments** Mem Fox, is one of the world's most gifted children's writers and advocates for early literacy skills learned through reading aloud. Her website, <http://www.memfox.com/ten-read-aloud-commandments.html>, is a treasury full of tips about reading, writing and storytelling. If you haven't read any of her stories, you can find them at the public library.
- **Top 10 Resources on Reading Aloud By: Reading Rockets** Reading Rockets is a wonderful source for assisting parents and teachers on the art and science of reading. Not surprisingly, they place reading aloud to your child as the most valued practice any parent of an elementary school student can undertake. Follow this link to find out more: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/43226/>
- **Jim Trelease's Read-Aloud Handbook** Jim has been a touchstone for educators in the US who have felt the pressure to stop reading aloud to their students, as well as for parents who seek inspiration and resources for reading aloud. Check out his book The Read Aloud Handbook at the library or online at <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/>.
- **Bank Street Book Store:** Bank Street College of Education's book store in NYC is a goldmine if you are looking the best books in just about every category for kids. Thankfully, you don't have to travel to NYC, as their website <http://www.bankstreetbooks.com/> categorizes books by topics (interest, age and awards), and suggests and sells toys that help your kids think, learn and have fun. Before you go to the library, look at their website with your child to make a list of books or authors you may want to check out.

Your Child's Teacher: Your child's teacher is always another great resource. Teacher conferences are a good time to address questions you may have regarding reading aloud at home.

Enjoy the winter break and especially reading with your child(ren)!

Yours,

John

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, Dec. 15	<i>School Picture Make-ups being taken (mornings)</i>
Thursday, Dec. 15	School Council Meeting, 4pm in the Art Room
Friday, Dec. 16	Last day of Quarter 1
Mon-Tue, Dec. 19-20	PARENT CONFERENCES

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28:
SAVE OUR ARTS BENEFIT CONCERT AND AUCTION, 7:00pm**

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