



The Roadrunner Reader

Russell Elementary School/Title I/February 2012/Volume 1, Issue 6

Notes from Dr. D!

Dear Parents

Listening and Speaking are two very important standards in the new Common Core Standards that Georgia, along with 49 other states, has adopted as its new curriculum. Students at Russell will begin to be taught the critical steps in listening when others are speaking and in speaking in complete sentences and with informative information.

A parent spends, on average, one hour a day in meaningful conversation with their child – true or false?

Actually, it is false. Did you know that speaking with your child in a meaningful conversation for at least one hour of the day is critical to their language development and to school success? Let us all begin today in helping our children learn those critical skills of listening and speaking.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Dipetrillo

ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS

Please attend a very important meeting on WED. FEBRUARY 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center

The 5th Grade Committee is always in need of parents to help out with events and planning.

Please contact Karen Andrew-Dyett at andrewdyett@yahoo.com or phone [770-401-5495](tel:770-401-5495) to get involved!

Now is the time to order ads for the yearbook. 5th grade parents can order a ¼ sheet add for \$25, and ½ sheet add for \$50 or a full page for \$100! What a wonderful way to tell your 5th grader how PROUD you are of them and their accomplishments at Russell Elementary. Contact Karen Andrew-Dyett at andrewdyett@yahoo.com or Sarah Canup at sarahcanup@gmail.com to get yours today!

Put the “Parent” in Parent Teacher Association!

Russell PTA is excited to announce the opening of nominations for officers for the 2012/2013 school year. If you have been interested in finding out what PTA is all about from the inside out, this is your chance! We will be looking to fill several positions for next year including spaces on the Executive Committee and many committee chairs. PTA sponsors events, underscores our arts, science and outdoor programs, and works to make Russell an amazing community for our children. We would love to have you! Please feel free to contact us at ptaroadrunners@gmail.com to find out more.

Don't Fuss, Ride the Bus for Clean Air and Healthier Lungs!

Vehicle exhaust affects everyone, especially our children.

* Children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults.

*Children are closer to the ground and therefore closer to vehicle tailpipes.

*Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and is the cause of most school absences.

Exposure to tailpipe emissions can aggravate asthma symptoms and make it harder to breathe.

*Choosing to ride the bus helps keep more cars off the road.

Our Challenge for YOU!:

1. We encourage more students to ride the bus.
2. Our buses keep their engines off while students are loading in the afternoons, so we are encouraging the car pool parents to TURN OFF their engines while waiting in line.



What's Happening?

Chic-fil-a Biscuit Sale

Wed. Feb 22nd

Benchmark Testing

Feb. 27 – Mar. 2

For students in 1st – 5th grades

PTA Executive Board Meeting

Thurs. March 1 6:30 PM

All Grade Reps, Committee Chairs, Faculty/Staff Representatives and Executive Officers should attend.

BINGO for Books

Thurs. March 8 – 6:30 PM

Join us for our second annual night of SO MUCH FUN! Play is \$1 per card. Every child wins a book. Fabulous prizes and everything you love about BINGO all in one place.

Donuts for Dads

Tues. March 13 – 7:15 AM

Russell dads! Join your child for breakfast in the cafeteria - served by Russell moms!

Roadrunner Reader Rally

Wed. March 21

Spring Pictures and SPACE

TEAM PICTURE

Fri. March 23

Corner Joke Box

Q: What did the zero say to the eight?

A: Nice belt!

Q: What's the difference between a bus driver and a cold?

A: A bus driver knows your stop. A cold stops your nose.

Q: What happens when you throw a white rock into the Red Sea?

A: It gets wet.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Academic Coach:

Math is all around us. Little moments can be teachable moments shared between parents and children. Parents, the next time you are out at a restaurant, take time to allow your child to figure out how much their meal will cost with tax. When you are driving somewhere, have younger children tell you what time it is and for older children, ask them how long it will take to get to your destination, and have them figure out what time you will arrive. When you are driving, have younger children read the numbers on license plates, and older children can make math problems out of the numbers. Remember, anytime spent with your child is valuable, so use that time to share small moments of learning that they will remember for a lifetime.

Counselor's Corner:

Milford Baptist Church will be distributing 100 free food boxes on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 on a first come first serve basis.

The student council will participate in the Greater Atlanta Diaper Bank. We will collect infant and adult diapers from February 21st - March 2nd. There will be blue bins in front of the media center for collection purposes. Diapers must be sealed in their original packaging. Visit www.thediaperbankofgreateratlantabank.org for information.

Art News:

We are currently working on 3-dimensional clay projects in many classes and are in need of newspaper to wrap them securely for the trip home. Most grade levels are working on color theory and are busy practicing their painting technique along with learning about color.

K: Primary colors: Red, Yellow, Blue

1st: Secondary Colors: Orange, Green, Violet

2nd: Will be working with shades & Tints

3rd: Warm Colors: Yellow, Orange, Red & Cool Colors: Blue, Green, Violet

4th: Neutrals: White, Brown, Black

5th: Shades & Tints and Monochromatic Color Scheme

Music Notes:

Keep sending in those Box Tops! We have already raised \$637 so far this year. I am ordering two new steel drums, a taxi horn, and some other fun percussion instruments with that money. I'll be mailing in all of the box tops I have now on March 1st, so now's the time to gather them from your house and bring them in!

We've been working hard in music class on singing, playing instruments, reading and notating (writing) music. The students are doing a great job. Fourth graders have been practicing on their soprano recorders. Mark your calendars now for our Arts Night - Thursday, April 12th!

Science News:

Kindergarten is working on properties of matter, rocks and soil.

1st Grade will be studying sources of light and shadows in the weeks to come.

2nd Grade will be studying the stars, how constellations are formed, the moon phases, shadows, day and night, the seasons, and planets.

3rd – 5th Grade Science News:

3rd Grade: Swamp/Marsh

Challenge- Ask your parents to name three plants and three animals that live in Georgia's swamp/marsh habitat.

4th Grade: Star Gazers

Challenge - Use your Star Finders to teach your parents how to find 3 constellations in the winter sky.

5th Grade: Electromagnets

Challenge- Teach your parents how to build an electromagnet, I am sure they will be amazed!

Thank You Russell Scientists for sharing the world around you. This month Kayla Frasier, Michael Garcia-Camano, Arianna Small, Owen Wang, Cana Jordan, Callie Androck and Derrick Fuller shared their learning with me. Way to go!

Media Center News:

Parents Need to Know What Their Child is Reading: Oft times parents are very diligent about the movies, games, and TV their children watch, but forget that books can be a powerful influence too. Some will say: "I'm just glad he/she is reading." Others assume that if an older sibling has read a book that it's appropriate for the younger ones. Not so. Children mature at different rates. There are lots of books with wide appeal like the *Twilight Saga* and *Hunger Games* that have themes that are too advanced for the maturity levels of elementary children. As a parent you'll want to be familiar with the books your child reads. Take time to talk to your children about the books and as you do so you'll gain added insights into their interests and concerns. It's important that you know how to evaluate children's books. Russell's Media Center and the public library all have books and other resources to help you evaluate children's books and provide guidelines about books that are appropriate and appealing to children at various ages.

Thank You: We are so grateful to the PTA and the Dad's Club for their help with the Book Fair. The proceeds help us purchase new books for the Media Center. Do check in with the Media Center blog often for updates on new additions and timely information for parents and guardians. Again, sincere thanks!

It's Only February!

But it is never too early to prepare for the **CRCT**. Students in grades three through eight will be assessed in the spring on the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT). All students are assessed in Reading, English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Third grade students are required to pass the Reading test for promotion to fourth grade, fifth grade students are required to pass the Reading and Mathematics tests for promotion to sixth grade. This year's test is April 18 – 24 and NOW is the time to get started preparing. Russell offers many great ways to get there, starting with Study Island. Please have your child visit www.studyisland.com and use their log-in information (which they know). **Assignments are updated regularly based on our classroom lessons.** Study Island offers:

Web-based format- Because Study Island is completely Web based, students can use it at school or home and can study and learn at their own pace. There is no software to download or install; all you need is an Internet connection.

Dynamic Content - Not only are there several thousand questions in the Study Island program, but each question is also constantly changing. The answers to the multiple choice questions are continuously changing position, and the numbers in the math questions are randomly chosen. This causes the students to learn the concepts, not just memorize the answers.

Skills-Specific Study- Study Island's lessons and practice tests are based solely on the Georgia Performance Standards and are specifically designed to prepare students for the CRCT. Study Island covers each and every Standard that will be tested on the CRCT in the areas of reading, language arts, and math

Immediate Feedback - Study Island offers all the benefits of workbook based programs in addition to the tremendous benefits that can only be provided by a Web based program. Unlike workbooks, Study Island enables students to interact with thousands of questions, then automatically and instantly grades and records all student work.

Question Style Similar to the CRCT - The question style on Study Island is similar to the style on the actual CRCT. This allows students to get comfortable with the testing style; therefore, test-taking mistakes will be reduced and scores will improve.

Self-paced - Study Island allows the student to learn at his or her own pace.

Multiple Study Modes - In addition to allowing students to learn at their own pace, Study Island lets students choose their style of learning. Students can choose between a standard test format and several interactive games for their study sessions based on their percentages (90% or above).

Real-time Reporting - Study Island records statistics for each user session in a real time report card. Teachers have access to a private page where they can view usage statistics and results for each student and the school as a whole. Real-time reports (including graphs) help teachers measure progress and identify deficiencies as they relate to the specific Standard. Teachers and administrators can use these statistics to see how their students compare to other students in Georgia.

We will be featuring more ways to prepare for the CRCT next month!



Teaching True Self Defense
for over 40 years!



- We offer classes from ages 4 and up
- 4 FREE lessons
- Free uniform with enrollment
- Birthday Parties

Present this AD and mention **Russell** and get 2 additional FREE LESSONS, 6 total!

Shun Shifu Noel Plaugher
1810 Spring Road, Smyrna
(678) 602-2908

www.mooresofatlanta.com