

READING RANCH ROUNDUP



USD #417

October 2016

Important Dates

10/7 – Harlem Wizards vs. PHES Teachers + CG Coaches

10/13 - End of 1st Nine Weeks Early Dismissal

10/17 – CGES PTO and Site Council

10/18 – CGES Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00

10/18 – PHES Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00

10/19 PHES Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00

10/20 – CGES Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00

10/21 - NO SCHOOL

10/24-10/28 Red Ribbon Week

10/24 – PHES PTO

Fun Tips for Reading with Your Child

Make reading aloud a daily habit! It's a wonderful routine to help your child prepare for bedtime. Like all habits, this one may take a while to get established, but hang in there until it's a daily (or nightly) routine.

Try to select an enjoyable core of books your child can choose from. Do they have bright, colorful pictures? Does the language flow in an enjoyable way as you read it, or does it sound unnatural and halting? Are the stories about topics your child might be interested in?

Remember to keep it fun! Try to allow your child to select the books to be read.

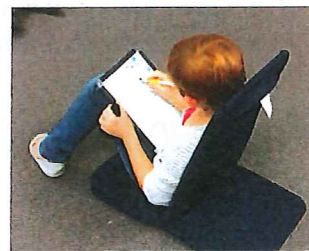
Previewing books with your children is part of the fun! Look at the pictures and talk about them. As you chat about the pictures, prepare your children to enjoy the book, and you can explain some words or names they will hear when you begin reading.

This is an experience that you can really "get into." Roar like a lion, squeak like a mouse, and read your stories with great feeling.

You'll want to be physically close to your child as you share books together. One of the best parts about reading aloud is having your child sit on your lap, or snuggled up to you.

Your children will probably want you to continue reading to them long after they are capable of doing it independently – because reading aloud isn't just about reading. It's a warm, loving experience that hopefully you'll continue for as long as your child desires. See a list of favorite read-aloud books that are perfect for story time and are even categorized by theme and special holidays.

See full article at: <http://literacyconnections.com/LiteracyBeginsAtHome.php>



Please see the list of Important Dates in the right hand column to learn when Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for each elementary school.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Staying involved in your child's education is critical to your child succeeding in school and in life. One very important way to stay involved is to attend Parent Teacher Conferences.

Take advantage of this excellent opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher and learn about all of the amazing things that he or she is doing in class. Ask your child's teacher how you can support their education with activities at home as well.



Fall Family Ranch Nights

We have completed sign up for Family Ranch Nights/LIFE program for the fall semester. Thank you to those families who are attending! If you would like to receive information about the spring Family Ranch Night/LIFE program, please contact Christy Buchman.

It's a great LIFE with Kansas Reading Roadmap!

Kansas Reading Roadmap schools are making LIFE great for families with the new family program called LIFE – Literacy Integrated Family Engagement.

This new eight-week family program is offered in the fall and spring and is open to any family with a child in grades from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. LIFE sessions provide an opportunity for kids to read and participate in many fun activities with their families.

During each eight-week LIFE session, parents and children enjoy a meal together, visit with each other, read, and play games together. Parents have group time during each session to talk with adults while children participate in fun activities.

The purpose of the KRR LIFE program is to bring families closer together while connecting them to each other and their school community.

Parents and children share activity time during the family sessions to become lifelong learners and readers.

THANK YOU to James Bolieu and Pizza Hut for donating one large pizza for each of our LIFE family's Family Game Night gift basket!

Seeing Results in USD #417!

Fall Benchmark testing was recently completed at Prairie Heights Elementary and Council Grove Elementary schools. The results of your child's testing should have been shared with you by your child's teacher. We are very excited about the progress that we are seeing in the scores of those students attending the Reading Ranch program. We have seen the results of the program in other schools, and now we are seeing the data in USD 417.

We will continue working diligently with classroom teachers, Title 1 interventionists and administrators to help students achieve grade level reading skills by the end of third grade. We appreciate your support as parents who are making Reading Ranch a priority for your children. The more often children are at Reading Ranch, the more progress we expect to see.

If you ever have any questions about what your child does while he or she is at Reading Ranch, do not hesitate to ask.

Homework Time

We know that the time that students attend Reading Ranch is valuable time that they could be working on homework and preparing for extracurricular evening events and activities. Whether it be a soccer game, Awana or spending time with family, we want

kids to be able to enjoy their evenings.

For those reasons, we have incorporated homework time into our busy Reading Ranch schedule. We do have 30-60 students, depending on elementary location, to receive their snack and do their homework in just 15-30 minutes. While we provide the time and space to work on homework, it is each

student's responsibility to come to homework time ready to get their work done. As much as we would love to be able to sit and listen to each individual student read their Journeys homework for that day or help with each child's individual math assignment, we simply do not always have the staff to do so. We will continue to work with teachers and help students get as much

There is no cost for students to attend the Reading Ranch program thanks to funding provided by Kansas Reading Roadmap, a project funded by the Kansas Department for Children and Families working in partnership with the Kansas Department of Education to promote third grade reading through locally-driven public/private partnerships.

www.readingroadmap.org

