

October 2018



# The Wave *PVPV/Rawlings Elementary*

## Upcoming Events

### October 2018

- October 10 Kid of Character Breakfast
- October 11 Turtle Trot  !!!
- October 12 2<sup>nd</sup> grade gifted screening
- Turtle Trot RAIN DAY
- Student deadline for Box Tops
- First quarter ends
- October 15 Teacher Planning Day
- October 16 SAC Meeting @ 3:15 p.m.  
Rawlings Media Center
- October 18 Turtle Trot Reveal Day
- October 22 Space Race to Rescue Mission  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- October 23 Picture Retake Day
- October 24 Report Cards
- October 26 Spirit Day

## Principal's Message

Hi Everybody!

Smooth sailing through September has given our students a chance to solidify their rituals and routines. This is when strong learning happens. It's amazing to see kindergarteners already working in small groups, recognizing and writing their letters and numbers. Our grade-level teams of teachers work closely together, sharing instructional strategies to encourage learning for every student based on that student's progress. It's incredible to watch these children grow into caring and thoughtful citizens of the world. Next week, we'll get to see our 5<sup>th</sup> graders interact with STEM activities provided by MOSH. So exciting!

Of course, the biggest excitement in October will be the **Turtle Trot**, sponsored by community partner Coastal Luxury Outdoors. Our PTO really does set our school apart for all we are able to offer our children, from technology to modern media centers to fun playgrounds. Thank you all for supporting our school, and I'll see you at the Turtle Trot Track...☺  
Your Principal, Ms. Van Housen

Our first-ever Kindness Crew Lunch Bunch. From an email recently: "I keep 'catching' students being kind to one another!! Before school, during school, in the library, in the cafeteria, after school....It's happening everywhere!!! I'm running out of Kindness cards!!!  
Whatever you're doing seems to be working!!"



610 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
Rawlings (904) 547-8570 PVPV (904) 547-3820

WE ARE SO PROUD TO ANNOUNCE  
2018-2019

Teacher of the Year – Stephanie Barnette!

Rookie Teacher of the Year – Jessica Armstrong!

Employee of the Year – Jessica Peto!

We so appreciate *all* they do for *all* of us in the Sea Turtle family!



Teacher of the Year  
Stephanie Barnette

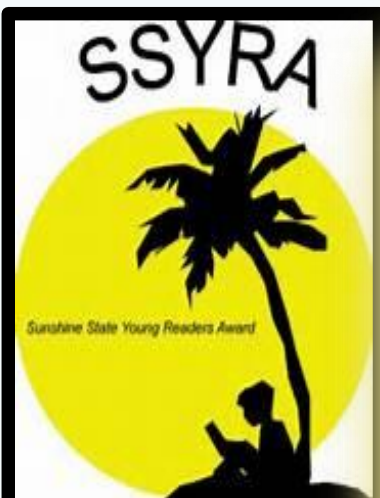


Employee of the Year  
Jessica Peto



Rookie Teacher of the Year  
Jessica Armstrong





## **Congratulations!!!!!!**

The following students have read all 15 Sunshine State Young Readers Award books! Their 8x10 photo is posted on the Media Center Wall of Fame and they will be invited to a special end-of-year celebration.



*The Ark Plan*  
*The Doublecross: (And Other Skills I Learned as a Superspy)*  
*Dragons and Marshmallows*  
*The Great Treehouse War*  
*Home Sweet Motel*  
*I Love You, Michael Collins*  
*Lemons*  
*Lights, Camera, Cook!*  
*Podkin One-Ear*  
*Spirit Week Showdown*  
*The Sweetest Sound*  
*A True Home*  
*Ugly Cat & Pablo*  
*Wish*

Jackson Bohsali  
Connie Bowden  
Anya Dorairaj  
Mr. Edeker  
Zoe Epstein  
Isabella Gatewood  
Anna Graves  
Storm Lickliter  
Steele Lickliter  
Paige Vernon

*I Am Not a Chair*  
*Prince Ribbit*  
*Jabari Jumps*  
*The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors*  
*You Don't Want a Unicorn!*  
*Be Quiet!*  
*Tyrannosaurus Rex vs. Edna, the Very First Chicken*  
*Nerdy Birdy Tweets*  
*After the Fall*  
*Escargot*  
*Noodleheads See the Future*  
*CatStronauts: Mission Moon*  
*The Last Firehawk: The Ember Stone*  
*Hilde cracks the Case: Hero Dog!*  
*Fergus and Zeke*

...and these students have read all 15 Junior books:  
Juliette Burrell  
Dhruv Patel

Students verify their reading through quizzes on the SSYRA books ... offered by our Media Center Specialists, Mr. Edeker and Mrs. Gallaher.

## **Spotlight on Achievers!**

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

## **TO OUR NEW STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**



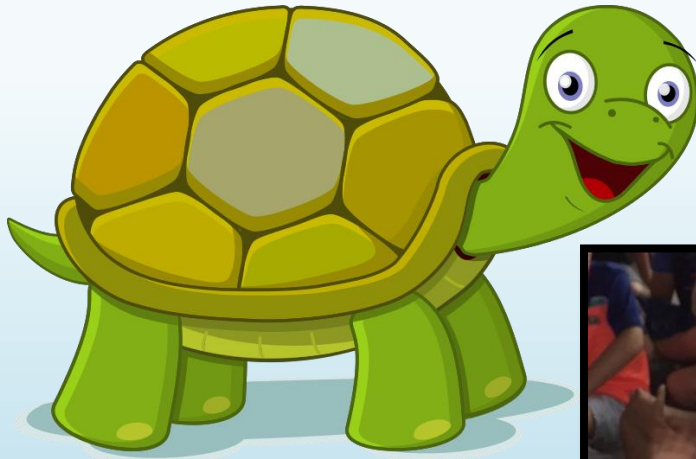
President - Jack Berquist  
Secretary – Nancy Kate James  
Historian – Julia Preston

Vice President – Brooks Gray

Our full Student Council includes  
(from bottom left, below): Annabelle Giurato, Chloe Lin Landeweer, Carson Stoudt, Jonas Vangura, Grace Ludescher, Brooks Gray, Josiah Stine, Nancy Kate James, Julia Preston, Riley Boswell, (and top row) Amelia Galley, Isabella Gatewood, Jack Berquist, Levente Banyai, John Finnemore, Anya Dorairaj, Brenna Wakefield, George Smith, Jidu Li, Greyson Smith, (and not pictured) Aliyah Price, Anna Shuck, Isabella Tuttle, and Isabella Varzoni.



# TURTLE TROT PEP RALLY



Click on the Turtle to  
view YouTube video  
about the Turtle Trot



**CONGRATULATIONS to our  
August Kids of Character  
ALL PILLARS**



Kindergarten

Jude Sevigny  
Ava Rose  
Simon Smith  
Charlotte Luby  
Jack McCabe  
Tristan Henderson  
Emma Redmond  
Kaye Cappock

First Grade

Olivia Manners  
Juliet Tsai  
Sara Chapnick  
Cruse Ritch  
Alison Armstrong  
Delaney Burke  
Addison Smith  
Isla Harvick  
Emily Pak

Second Grade

Mina Bohsali  
Flor Vallejo Brunette  
Madison Brletich  
Jace Murchison  
Cooper Osol  
Grace Harper  
Lakely Wallace  
Lilly Ritchie

Third Grade

Julia Conroy  
Sam Resnick  
Finley Vadeboncoeur  
Ben McLaughlin  
Isabella Manukian  
Cole Robinson  
Jake Berquist  
Zachary Pirris  
Liam Somerville  
Rebecca Conwell

Fourth Grade

Sophia Zawacki  
Colton Nuualitia  
Gianna Hurley  
Sam Cote  
Hailey Ross  
Finley Pilinko  
Leianna Williams  
Edith Alford

Fifth Grade

Simon Buss  
Nancy Kate James  
Chase Bloss  
Jack Berquist  
Kate Looney  
Shelby Schindele  
Ryan Preovolos  
Zack Hofacker  
Tait McGraw



Ace

Freda Stamper  
Mysha Azhar



Square 1 Artwork created by Finley Pilinko



Thank you Double J Repair Shop for donating soil for the Kindergarten planting beds.

## Square 1 is coming!

The adorable works of art produced in our art classes have been sent to **Square 1 Art**. This company feeds the art into a computer and is able to print the art onto various products like mugs, water bottles, pillows, and many other items. These make great holiday gifts for grandparents and those hard-to-buy-for people on your list.

Ordering is simple. Around October 25, the students will receive, **FOR FREE**, a page of stickers with their art on it, just for participating. Along with the stickers, students get a catalog and ordering information. ***All orders will be handled online at home.*** The last day for ordering online is **Monday, November 15, 2018**. ***No money will be accepted at school for this project! Orders will be distributed to the students the week of December 3.*** The original art will be returned to the student. We will put it in their portfolios for distribution at the end of the year.

Our school receives a portion of the costs of the products. Last year we raised around \$5,000 for the school because our parents supported Square 1 Art and ordered products. (Thank you!) We can't wait for you to see what we have created this year!



Mrs. LaMonica's class practiced "mindfulness" with Ragda Deeb

# I Book Club

## Book Club for 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders

Calling all book lovers! New this year, the PTO is proud to partner with the fabulous Mr. Edeker and host a book club for Rawlings students once a quarter this year! Any child who reads the book is welcome to join for the discussion! If your child would like to attend, please email [pvpvrawlingspto@gmail.com](mailto:pvpvrawlingspto@gmail.com) to RSVP. Refreshments will be provided. Parents must provide transportation for their child at 4 pm.

Students may attend all 4 discussion sessions, or attend individual sessions.

October 30<sup>th</sup> 3 – 4 pm     *The Shadows: Books of Elsewhere* by Jacqueline West

December 18<sup>th</sup> 3 – 4 pm     *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo

February 26<sup>th</sup> 3 – 4 pm     *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

April 30<sup>th</sup> 3 - 4 pm     *The Lost Books: The Scroll of Kings* by Sarah Prineas

# PVPV/RAWLINGS PTO

<http://pvpvrawlingspto.wildapricot.org>



On **Thursday, October 11**, the PTO and Coastal Luxury Outdoors will present the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Turtle Trot FUND Run! We are busy preparing for another amazing TURTLE TROT! Our pep rally was full of color! We are excited to announce that this year our theme will be "Splashes of Color"! Each child will be given a Turtle Trot t-shirt from the PTO and will be misted with colored water as they trot their way around the track!

The Turtle Trot encourages fitness for kindergarten - 5th graders, while raising funds to support our A-Rated, Five Star school. This is our ONLY fundraiser of the year, and all students will get a T-shirt and have a blast trotting around the track. At PVPV/Rawlings, we love to have tons of fun on race day; therefore, please dress your child in play clothes on race day.

We welcome all parents to participate and cheer on their super star the day of the race! Please see the race schedule below for your child's race time! New this year: Turtle Trot RSVP Required. Now that we have secured our closed campus, family members attending Turtle Trot will need a badge to attend. Check-in tables will be at the field gate for those who RSVP; otherwise, you will need to come to the front office. If you plan to attend, please email either Rawlings receptionist Ms. Wallner at [catherine.wallner@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:catherine.wallner@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or PVPV receptionist Ms. Leaders at [Barbara.leaders@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Barbara.leaders@stjohns.k12.fl.us). Please bring your ID with you.

## **2018 Turtle Trot Fund Run Schedule:**

4th Grade- 8:45-9:30AM  
3rd Grade-9:30-10:15AM  
5th Grade-10:15-11:00AM  
K- 11:30AM-12:15PM  
1st Grade 12:30-1:15PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 1:15 PM- 2:00 pm

**Please click on the following link to register your child:**

<https://secure.eventsonline.us/reg/getmovincrow/parents>

This year's funds raised from the Turtle Trot will go to replacing 110 of the 15-year-old computers that are still used daily by students! We also will be renovating the 60-year-old PVPV Library and continuing to enhance the Rawlings playground. The children and teachers were thrilled with the news at the Turtle Trot Pep Rally, and are excited to start collecting donations! As you can see, we have BIG plans for this year and will need 100% participation for each student!





# BOOK FAIR



Save the Date!!! The PTO and Fishman Pediatric Dentistry are excited to announce the Fall Book Fair! The Book Fair will take place November 2-9 on the Rawlings stage. More information concerning your children's class date and time will be sent home closer to the start of the fair. As always, volunteers are much appreciated! If you are interested in helping please contact Gina Baker at [gib99@outlook.com](mailto:gib99@outlook.com). We look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall!





# ACE NEWS

Things are up and running at full speed at ACE!

Reminder – School Pay is ready if you wish to pay by Credit Card for ACE. Just go to [www.schoolpay.com](http://www.schoolpay.com) and create an account for your child.

PAYMENTS – Payment 3 should have been made by September 10<sup>th</sup>. Our next payment #4 is due October 10<sup>th</sup>. We really appreciate you making your payments on time.

THANK YOU to all of our parents picking up your children by 6:00. It is greatly appreciated by the staff.

*DISMISSAL transportation:* Most of you have really jumped on board letting us know when your child is **not** going to attend ACE, and it makes a huge difference for a smooth dismissal time. All it takes is an email to: the teacher, the front office and most importantly myself – [lynda.wing@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:lynda.wing@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

*HOMEWORK LAB* – is up and running. Please remember to turn in the Homework Lab Contract if you wish your student to go to homework lab every day. Let us know if there is anything in particular your child needs assistance with. *We are in our launch stage of the ACE High Flyers Lounge.* We had 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade last week. A good time was had by all.

*ENRICHMENT CAMPS* are in full swing also. There are still plenty of openings in SOCCER SHOTS; it's great exercise and a fun way to learn/improve your soccer skills. FIRST TEE GOLF did not have enough students interested to hold a fall camp. If you are interested, please sign up for the spring camp.

IT IS ALMOST OFFICIALLY FALL AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME FALL WEATHER. Remember to label all clothing, water bottles, etc. with your student's name.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>1</b> Mac & Cheese BBQ Chicken Max <del>Snax</del> Chicken nuggets & garlic toast Carrot Dippers w/ ranch Steamed Broccoli Green Beans Slice peaches Assorted Fruit Variety Milk	<b>2</b> Mini Corn Dogs Cheese Ravioli w/ garlic toast Nacho Bites Spinach& Romaine Salad Carrot dippers & Corn Celery and sweet peppers Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>3</b> Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Nuggets w/roll Cherry tomato & celery Broccoli florets/ranch peas Assorted Fruit Variety of milk Papa John's ala carte	<b>4</b> Cheese Burger Chicken Patty Sandwich Chicken Nuggets W/ garlic toast Spinach& Romaine Salad Celery & sweet red peppers carrot dippers Crispy Potato cuts Mixed Fruit Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>5</b> Hot Dog Chicken Nuggets w/ garlic toast Cheese Sticks & Marinara Spinach and Romaine Carrot Dippers & Celery and Cucumber Baked Beans Assorted Fruit Variety of Milk
<b>8</b> Chicken quesadilla Cheese stick Chicken nuggets w/roll steamed Broccoli Green beans Carrot bites Assorted fruit Variety of milk	<b>9</b> Cheese or Pepperoni Calzone With marinara Chicken Patty Sandwich Mini corn dogs Spinach and Romaine Cherry tomato with celery Baked Beans Mixed Fruit Assorted Fruit & Variety of milk	<b>10</b> Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Nuggets w/roll Cherry tomato & celery Broccoli florets/ranch corn Assorted Fruit Variety of milk Papa John's ala carte	<b>11</b> Pasta and meatballs Hot dogs Chicken Nuggets w/garlic toast Spinach& Romaine Salad Cherry tomato with celery sweet potato puffs slice peaches Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>12</b> BBQ Chicken & garlic toast Cheese burger Mini Corn dogs Bake Potato cuts Broccoli dippers Spinach and romaine Assorted Fruit Variety of Milk
<b>15</b> Mac & Cheese BBQ Chicken Max <del>Snax</del> Chicken nuggets & garlic toast Carrot Dippers w/ ranch Steamed Broccoli Green Beans Slice peaches Assorted Fruit Variety Milk	<b>16</b> Mini Corn Dogs Cheese Ravioli w/ garlic toast Nacho Bites Spinach& Romaine Salad Carrot dippers & Corn Celery and sweet peppers Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>17</b> Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Nuggets w/roll Mixed greens Carrot dippers & celery and cucumber peas Assorted Fruit Variety of milk Papa John's ala carte	<b>18</b> Cheese Burger Chicken Patty Sandwich Chicken Nuggets W/ garlic toast Spinach& Romaine Salad Celery & sweet red peppers carrot dippers Crispy Potato cuts Mixed Fruit Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>19</b> Hot Dog Chicken Nuggets w/ garlic toast Cheese Sticks & Marinara Spinach and Romaine Salad Carrot Dippers & Celery and Cucumber Baked Beans Assorted Fruit Variety of Milk
<b>22</b> Chicken quesadilla Cheese stick Chicken nuggets w/roll steamed Broccoli Green beans Carrot bites Assorted fruit Variety of milk	<b>23</b> Cheese or Pepperoni Calzone With marinara Chicken Patty Sandwich Mini corn dogs Spinach and Romaine Cherry tomato/celery Baked Beans Mix Fruit Assorted Fruit & Variety of milk	<b>24</b> Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Nuggets w/roll Cherry tomato & celery Broccoli florets/ranch corn Assorted Fruit Variety of milk Papa John's ala carte	<b>25</b> Pasta and meatballs Hot dogs Chicken Nuggets w/garlic toast Spinach& Romaine Salad Cherry tomato with celery carrot dippers sweet potato puffs slice peaches Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>26</b> BBQ Chicken & garlic toast Cheese burger Mini Corn dogs Bake Potato cuts Cherry tomato with celery Broccoli dippers Spinach and romaine Assorted Fruit Variety of Milk
<b>29</b> Mac & Cheese BBQ Chicken Max <del>Snax</del> Chicken nuggets & garlic toast Carrot Dippers w/ ranch Steamed Broccoli Green Beans Slice peaches Assorted Fruit Variety Milk	<b>30</b> Mini Corn Dogs Cheese Ravioli w/ garlic toast Nacho Bites Spinach& Romaine Salad Carrot dippers & Corn Celery and sweet peppers Assorted Fruit Variety of milk	<b>31</b> Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Nuggets w/roll Mixed greens Carrot dippers & celery and cucumber peas Assorted Fruit Variety of milk Papa John's ala carte		

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Pancake Sausage Wraps Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Breakfast Taco Bananas Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly Taco Sauce	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Mini Pancakes Cranberries Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast EggStravaganza with Toast Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Breakfast Pizza Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly
Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Colby Cheese Omelet and Toast Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Breakfast Burrito Bananas Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly Taco Sauce	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Scramble Egg Sandwich or Biscuit Cranberries Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Breakfast Skillet Frittata with Toast Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly	Assorted Fruit Cereal & Toast Sausage Sandwich or Biscuit Choice of Milk Choice of 100% Fruit Juice  Butter & Jelly

Choice of Cereal(s):

RS WG Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Cheerios, Honey Nut Cheerios, Golden Grahams, Reduced Sugar Lucky Charms, Reduced Sugar Whole Grain Frosted Corn Flakes, Rice Chex, Reduced Sugar WG Cocoa Puffs, Fruity Cheerios, Apple Cinnamon Cheerios, Cinnamon Chex

Choice of 100% Juice: (4 oz) Apple, Grape, Orange, Sour Apple, Orange Pineapple, Blue Raspberry, Tropical Punch, Apple Cherry

Choice of Milk: Fat Free Regular or Flavored; Low Fat Regular

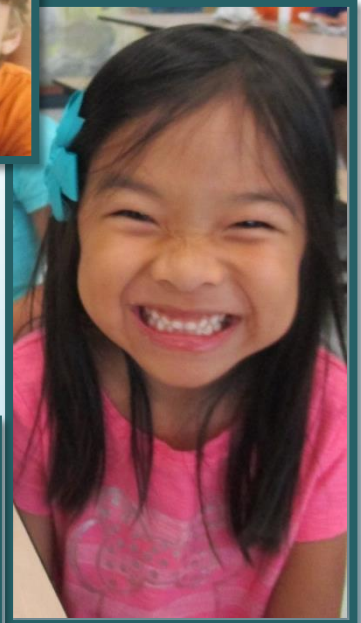
- Menu cycles every 2 weeks

Starting in October, on Wednesdays only, we will be serving Papa John's pizza. Each slice is \$1.85, and every thing that your child gets with Papa John's will be charged as ala carte.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [Jessica.Peto@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jessica.Peto@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or call me at 904-547-8576. Thank You!

To apply for free or reduced lunch, visit the St. Johns County website at [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free/](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free/). You may also contact the cafeteria manager, Jessica Peto at 547-8576, for questions related to the application process.

For those receiving free and reduced lunch, we offer a wonderful program of support throughout the weekends call Blessings in a Backpack. If you're interested in finding out more, please contact your building's counselor, [Stacey O'Brien](mailto:Stacey.O'Brien@stjohns.k12.fl.us) (Stacey.O'Brien@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or [Christy Thacker](mailto:Christy.Thacker@stjohns.k12.fl.us) (Christy.Thacker@stjohns.k12.fl.us).



**Lazzara**  
orthodontics



**COASTAL LUXURY**  
OUTDOORS



**FISHMAN**  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY  
Rose Fishman, DMD, MS • William Love, DDS



**THE PLAYERS**

Together, anything's possible.



THE  
**GODDARD SCHOOL**  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



# Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

October 2018

PVPV-Rawlings Elementary  
Catherine Van Housen, Principal

## Book Picks

■ **Brand New School, Brave New Ruby** (Derrick Barnes)

The youngest of four kids, Ruby sets out to prove she can keep up with her smart (and sometimes mischievous) older brothers. She has just started at a new school, and she's ready to make a name for herself. The first book in the Ruby and the Booker Boys series.

■ **Get Coding!** (Young Rewired State)  
Your child can learn and use coding skills to complete the "missions" in this how-to book. She'll read about how to build a web page, design an app, create a game, and more—all in a guide designed for beginners.

■ **Word of Mouse** (James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein)

Isaiah is a little blue mouse who can read, write, and talk. It's hard for a talking mouse to fit in, but when he meets Hatley, a girl who knows what it's like to feel lonely, they both learn how valuable friendship can be.

■ **Behind the Canvas: An Artist's Life** (Blanca Apodaca and Michael Serwiche)  
Explore what it's like to be a real artist in this *Time for Kids* nonfiction book. Young readers will learn about various types of art and get an inside look at an artist's studio. Includes an interview with an artist and a glossary of art terms. (Also available in Spanish.)

## Books boost critical thinking

Did you know that reading is a great way to help your child think critically? Sharpen his thinking by encouraging him to imagine these twists as he reads.

### Imagine where

Ask your youngster to pretend the story he's reading takes place somewhere different. What would change or stay the same if the characters lived in outer space instead of on a farm? The kids might still go to school, but maybe they ride there on a "rocket bus" or wear spacesuit uniforms.

### Imagine when

How about if a story were set in another era? Perhaps your child is reading a novel about a wagon train journey in pioneer days. He might move it to the present day—with computers, cell phones, and other modern technology. How does he think the plot would



develop if the characters could communicate with distant relatives by Skype, navigate their journey with GPS, or film funny videos along the way?

### Imagine who

What if a different character told the story? Your youngster might change the narrator from a sloth to a cheetah, for example. Then, instead of hanging out in a tree all day, the main character would speed through the jungle and discover exciting new adventures.

## On-the-go conversations

When you're out and about with your youngster, build her speaking skills with these everyday conversation starters.

- **Jobs.** Pay attention to businesses you pass, like a yoga studio, newspaper office, or day-care center. Talk to her about what jobs people might be doing inside.
- **Nature.** Wonder aloud about plants and animals you spot, such as why leaves change color or what horses grazing in a field are thinking about.
- **Sports.** Look for people being active—walking their dogs, playing basketball, or riding bikes. What are your favorite physical activities, and what do you like best about them?



# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

October 2018

PVPV-Rawlings Elementary  
Catherine Van Housen, Principal

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *This Book Just Ate My Dog!*

(Richard Byrne)

When Bella takes her dog for a walk across the pages of this book, he "disappears" into the crease. Everyone who comes to help find him disappears, too—including Bella. It's up to the reader to rescue them all in this fun picture book.



### ■ *Inspector Flytrap in the da Vinci Cold!*

(Tom Angleberger)

Meet a Venus flytrap who solves mysteries. He travels by skateboard and has a clue-eating goat sidekick. In this first book in the Inspector Flytrap series, the clever plant cracks a case about smelly cookies, follows the trail of a missing rose, and more.



### ■ *Living Things and Nonliving Things: A Compare and Contrast Book*

(Kevin Kurtz)

The bright photos in this book encourage readers to compare things they see every day and ask questions. Do all living things move? Do all non-living things stay still? The answers may surprise your youngster!

### ■ *United States Capitol*

(Julie Murray)

Take a glimpse inside the U.S. Capitol in this nonfiction book. Readers learn who works in the Capitol, what jobs they do, and why the building plays an important role in the American government. Part of the U.S. Landmarks series. (Also available in Spanish.)



## A-B-C...play with me

What better way to learn the letters of the alphabet than to play with them? These hands-on activities encourage your youngster to look closely at each letter's unique features so she recognizes the letters when she reads.

### Crafty letters

Ask your child to pick any letter, and write a large version of it on paper for her to trace over with glue. She can cover it with craft supplies (glitter, yarn, toothpicks). Talk about each letter's lines, curves, or loops. ("What will you use for the slanted lines of the A?" or "Good idea to use yarn for the curve of the P!")

### Secret-letter bag

Can your youngster identify a letter by touch? This activity helps her notice small differences between letters. Secretly choose two magnetic letters with similar features, and put them in a brown paper



bag. Examples: E and F; M and N, or O and Q. Have her reach in without looking, feel both letters, and name them.

### Letter match

Use a set of uppercase letter tiles from a game, or let your child make her own "tiles" by printing each capital letter on a separate scrap of paper. Place the letters in a bowl. Now help your youngster write all the lowercase letters randomly on a sheet of paper. Take turns drawing a tile from the bowl and placing it over the matching letter on the paper (A on a, B on b).♥

## "What did you read in school today?"

Reading is a big part of your youngster's day at school. Show interest by asking about books he listened to or read. Here's how:

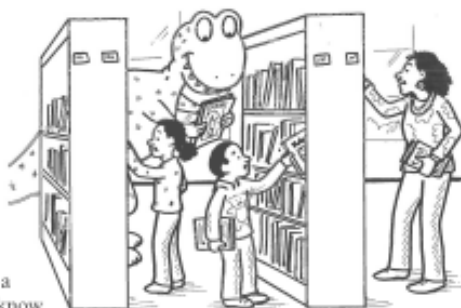
1. Have your child tell you the title of a book his teacher read aloud or that he read by himself.
2. Ask him what he learned from the book or what it was about. Maybe the teacher read a nonfiction book on pumpkins—can he describe how pumpkins grow? Or perhaps he chose a graphic novel about dragons during silent reading time.
3. Suggest that he draw a picture of his favorite part of a story. Let him describe the action in the book, using his drawing as a guide.♥



## Make the most of library visits

Regular trips to the library make reading a habit that will benefit your child throughout his school years—and his life. Try these tips for putting library visits into your family routine.

**Before you go.** “Advertise” the library as a source of information. You might say, “I know you love construction vehicles. We should check out a book about them.” Show him how you use the library, too.



*Example: “I need some slow-cooker recipes. I bet we’ll find a cookbook that’ll help.”*

**While you’re there.** Take time to explore together and become familiar with the layout. The more at home your youngster feels, the more he’ll enjoy the library. He can share his discoveries with you, too. He may be excited to find a shelf of sports books or more titles in a favorite series.

**Back at home.** Suggest that your child showcase the books he checked out by creating displays like those he saw at the library. For instance, he could put plastic farm animals on a table with books about farms. He might even hold story hour for your family—just like at the library.♥



### Be a word collector

*Galaxy, crimson, caterpillar...* your youngster can grow her vocabulary by collecting words that look or sound interesting to her.

When your child finds a word she likes, help her write it on a craft stick and add it to a jar. *Tip:* If she doesn’t know a word’s meaning, look it up in a dictionary together.



Now encourage your youngster to play with her collection so the words become familiar. For instance, she might sort them into categories (colors, animals) or by number of syllables. Or take turns pulling out a random word and giving each other clues to guess it. For *crimson*, you could say, “My word is a color. It’s a shade of red.”

**Note:** It’s okay if your child chooses words she can’t read. Youngsters can say and understand big words like *triceratops* or *nectarine* long before they’re able to read them!♥

#### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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## Autumn writing

Fall is full of fun reasons to write. Encourage your youngster to write words or sentences with these seasonal activities.

### Fall shapes

Together, draw and cut out leaves, apples, and other fall shapes from construction paper. On each one, help your child write the object’s name (“leaf”) or something he does with it (“I like to jump in leaves”). Then, let him use the shapes to decorate his bedroom.



### Five senses

Your youngster can use his senses to enjoy autumn activities. Suggest that he make a five-senses chart with columns labeled “I saw,” “I heard,” “I smelled,” “I tasted,” and “I touched.” He can write words or draw pictures to go with the labels (an orange leaf beneath “I saw,” an apple pie under “I tasted”).♥



## Support for speech therapy

**Q** My daughter receives speech therapy at school. We do exercises at home that the speech therapist recommends, but are there other ways we can help her make progress?

**A** Reading with your child is a fun way to practice speech at home. Take turns reading aloud from a book. When it’s her turn, she can point out words that contain sounds she’s working on and say them out loud.



Help her find words with the target sound at the beginning, middle, and end so she practices saying it in all parts of words. For instance, if she’s focusing on *ch*, she might find *chair*, *ketchup*, and *beach*. While she reads, ask her to show you how the therapist teaches her to form the sounds with her lips and tongue.

Finally, be sure to read with your daughter just for fun, too. Not every reading experience needs to turn into speech practice—it’s important for her to read simply for the joy of reading.♥