

Website

www.bryant.dbqschools.org

Weather-552.3035 Lunch-552.3250

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Calendar

Thu Jan 21, 2016

- Band Lessons & Ensemble
- 7:30am Bryant Choir
- 6pm Girl Scout Troop 7345

Fri Jan 22, 2016

- Gr. 5 Band Lessons
- ITP Results Sent Home

Mon Jan 25, 2016

- 3:05pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- 6pm Girl Scouts – Kind.

Tue Jan 26, 2016

- Orchestra Lessons

Wed Jan 27

- 10:00am Grade 3,4,5 to UD Heritage Center. Watch your email for an invitation to chaperone. Thank you to the Bryant Family Organization for funding transportation and admission costs!

Thu Jan 28, 2016

- Band Lessons & Ensemble
- 7:30am Bryant Choir
- 6pm Girl Scouts – Gr. 5

Fri Jan 29, 2016

- School Spirit Day! Wear Bryant apparel or our school colors; blue and yellow.

Mon Feb 1, 2016

- 7:30am Free Four-Year-Old Preschool Registration Opens at Bryant. Proof of age is required. (See the article on p. 2 for details or call our office at 552-3400).
- 3:05pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- 6pm Girl Scouts – Gr. 3

Dear Bryant Families,

I know that parents/guardians and Bryant staff members share a strong commitment to developing proficient and fluent readers – it makes their future so much brighter! The Iowa Reading Research Center, <http://www.iowareadingresearch.org> is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in helping young children develop as readers. A recent blog post on their site is a clever take on a “To-Do” list theme. The post, found below, highlights practical ways for big people to help little people learn to read. Please contact me or your child’s teacher if you have questions or comments.

Iowa Tests of Progress results arrived last week. This is an assessment that all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students took in November. Watch for your child’s results along with a cover letter to come home on tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 22.

With appreciation,

~Vicki Sullivan, Principal

WHAT NOT TO SAY TO EMERGING READERS

Posted on: January 14th, 2016 by Tracy Donohue

It is daunting to think about myself as my children’s “first teacher.” Thinking about all we have to teach our children, as parents, is overwhelming. On top of teaching them proper manners, how to dress themselves, and our families’ values, we also need to support their reading at home. I am a planner and love a good old “to do” list. I found a resource in the IRRC Family Resources Collection that isn’t quite a “to do” list, rather it is a “what NOT to do” list for how to help your young reader at home. “What Not to Say to Emerging Readers” is an article that shares how parents should handle specific situations they might encounter while reading with their children who are new readers. I have a kindergartener and first grader right now, so I regularly get to experience listening to emerging readers read aloud. This, as the article states, can sometimes feel like a “long and painful process.” In order to best help my children handle any issues they might encounter while reading, this article provides some great tips of “**what not to do**”, while giving suggestions of what to do. These include:

Don’t Interrupt for Simple Mistakes

“What Not to Say” states that parents should not interrupt their children to correct a mistake. There are many times my kids overlook a word or say the wrong word when reading. The article shares how parents should let the mistake go, unless it interferes with the meaning of the text. For example, if your child says “the” for “a” or “mother” for “mom,” the meaning of the text remains the same. This is something I will have to work on as a listener. I want to make sure my kids are reading with accuracy, but understand how it could be frustrating to be interrupted and could decrease their motivation to read. If the mistake does interfere with meaning, they suggest you wait until the end of the page and ask your child if it makes sense. **Instead of interrupting, have your children reread a book to help them get better accuracy.**

Don’t Comment on Reading Speed

Children read at different paces. Emerging readers tend to read fairly slowly, which can be frustrating for busy parents. Instead of asking children to speed up or slow down their reading, parents can demonstrate how to read fluently, with appropriate speed and intonation. **Parents can model this by making their read alouds sound like talking, or conversation.**

In addition, learning to read fluently requires lots of practice for children. **Children will benefit from reading the same book several times.** The articles suggests this way for families to repeat a book:

Day 1: Your child will read the book aloud to you.

Day 2: Have your child read it again. Next, read the book with him/her by using the “echo reading” technique. Read a page and have your child read the same page after you. Having your child track their reading with their finger is helpful in order to accurately read the text.

Day 3: Read the book together in unison—this will help your child learn proper phrasing.

The mission of Bryant School is to create a supportive environment that inspires all students to grow academically, socially and emotionally so that they are productive members of a diverse society.

Day 4: You read the book. Then, he/she reads it to you.

Day 5: This is your child's chance to shine. Have your child read the book aloud to you or another family member. He/she can even read on a voice recorder app or online to a family member.

Reading the same book over and over will allow your child the chance to practice reading fluency, which means they will read at an appropriate rate, with accuracy, and with expression. Griffin and I tried this and by day 5 I noticed a huge difference in Griffin's reading. In his first attempt at the book he read slowly and it didn't sound like conversation. By day 5, he was reading confidently and his reading sounded like talk. We will not do this activity with every book we read, but it is nice to practice fluency in this way every now and then.

Don't Laugh

Sometimes emerging readers pronounce a word in a funny way or make silly errors. It is very tempting to laugh, but the article states that you shouldn't. Laughing could embarrass your child or make him nervous. If your child thinks something he/she did is funny, then you can laugh together.

Don't Say "You Should Know This"

Instead of telling them what they should know, parents can help children figure it out. If your child isn't able to read a word, you can help them by breaking it into parts that might be familiar. For example, if your child is stumped at the word "thick," you could have him tell you what "ick" says and then have him try to put the "th" with the "ick".

This evening, when Ryan and I were working on a sight word app, I accidentally said exactly what the article says not to say. She came across the word "this" which is one of her class sight words, but she was having trouble remembering it. At first I said, "You should know this one," but then I thought about the article and changed it to, "Remember that we put that one on the wall when you brought it home and it looks like another sight word you've already learned (his)?" After that she was able to figure it out without any added pressure. And, here is a "What Not to Say" tip from a prior IRRC blog post:

Don't Give Me the Answer (Just Yet)

When your child stumbles on a word he doesn't know, it is best to give him time to try it for himself. This allows a child the opportunity to become an independent reader. This video has suggestions for how parents can help their children figure out unknown words. I recommend you should search "What Not to Say" in the IRRC Family Resources Collection to read more about how to best support your child when listening to him/her read. This article is very helpful and can help your child become a confident, independent reader.



Registration for free four-year-old preschool in the Dubuque Community School District will begin on Monday, Feb. 1. This includes Dubuque's 12 public schools offering preschool through the Statewide Voluntary Free Preschool Program.

Parents and guardians may register students in person at the selected site, beginning when that site's office opens on February 1. Bryant's office will open at 7:30am. Proof-of-age, preferably a birth certificate, is required to register a student. A passport or signed immunization record will be accepted if necessary.

Free four-year-old preschool is open to students who are four by September 15. For additional registration questions, individuals should contact the site they are interested in registering at. Space may be limited in some facilities and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollment for preschool is not based on geography and all sites are open to Iowa residents.

In addition to spots in Dubuque's public schools, a variety of community preschool partners also offer free four-year-old preschool. For a complete list of preschool providers, visit www.dbgschools.org/preschool. The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children is funded by the State of Iowa and facilitated locally by the Dubuque Community School District.