



APRIL 2017

Dear Hillcrest Families,

With spring now here, and nice weather officially in the area, some students enjoy spending more time outside. I encourage you to make an extra effort to spend time outdoors with your child. With the advancement of technology, our students are far too occupied with video games, Musically, Snap Chat, Facebook, etc. Studies have shown that a majority of students no longer go out and “just play.” **Encourage the freedom of free play!** Watch them play and play with them. Let them go play with their friends and..... you go play too!

April is National Poetry Month...we'll spend some time here in school reading, writing and reciting poetry. Reading poetry aloud with your children helps them fall in love with words and gives them the tools they need to become enthusiastic readers. By emphasizing the sound and rhythm of language, poetry builds children's phonemic awareness. Also, poets' inventive, skillful use of language introduces children to new vocabulary words and concepts. For older children, poetry is a great vehicle for learning how complex thoughts, numerous ideas, deep emotions or entire narratives can be expressed with a few carefully chosen words. Share your favorite poem with your child!

The ELA's have come and gone but we are still fixated on reading! Our students are really getting into their Passport To Reading! **Reading is much more than vocabulary and comprehension.** Students also need to learn to “read between the lines” or infer. Inferring is a key to good reading comprehension, and students need to practice to gain this skill.

Here are a few tips that you can use at home to help your student learn the skill of inferring.

1. Pick out a book and read a few sentences leaving out words about the setting. Can your child infer where the story is set?
2. Fables are a great tool to help with “reading between the lines”. Can your child figure out the lesson from the story? Then have your child point out the parts in the fable he/she used to make the inference.
3. It is all about questioning. Questions that start with “Why do you think...?” or “How do you know...?” can encourage students to infer.

Attendance Matters:

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future. We have 3 months of school left, make every day count! Every day counts! Good attendance matters for success!

Important Dates To Remember

April 5 – Music in Our Schools Concert @PKMS

April 10 -14 – Spring Recess

April 17 - 4th Quarter begins

April 19 – PTO General Meeting @ Hillcrest

April 20 – 21 – Parent Teacher Conferences

Happy Spring

Mrs. Liburd

