



WINTER VACATION EDUCATION



A Parent Resource Guide

Pre-K-Grade 5

Winter 2011

A Child's List Of Things to do this Winter Break:

Read 5 books

Write a Letter

Arts and Crafts

Visit Family

See a Movie

Write a Story

Keep a Journal

Visit Websites

Bake with an Adult

Play with Apps

Make Resolutions

Create a game

Dear Family,

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you are active in your child's education and your child is a witness of it, he/she will understand the importance and value of an education. Remember, your child wants you to be proud of him/her. Hence, he/she will develop a greater appreciation for homework, class participation and will always attempt to perform above and beyond his/her potential. This will also increase your child's self-esteem and develop better feelings about going to school. In fact, many studies show that what the family does is more important to a child's school success than how much money the family makes or how much education the parents have.

Every child has the power to succeed in school and in life. Every parent, family member and caregiver can help. Below is a list of ways you can help your child become a well-rounded successful citizen of society.

1. **Develop a partnership with your child's teachers and school staff.**
2. **Support your child academically.**
3. **Get involved with your child's school.**
4. **Get informed and be an advocate your child.**
5. **Support your child's learning at home.**



The School District of Osceola County, Florida
Student Achievement - Our Number One Priority

Below are some suggested web links to guide you in becoming a part of your child's enjoyment of school and learning.

Targeted Grade	Web Link	Summary
Kindergarten	http://www.pta.org/KFeb4.pdf	This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of kindergarten in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
First Grade	http://www.pta.org/1stGradeFeb4.pdf	This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 1st grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
Second Grade	http://www.pta.org/2ndGradeFeb4.pdf	This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 2nd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
Third Grade	http://www.pta.org/3rdGradeFeb4.pdf	This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 3rd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
Fourth Grade	http://www.pta.org/4thGradeFeb4.pdf	This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 4th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
Fifth Grade	http://www.pta.org/5thGradeFeb4.pdf	This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 5th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.

Winter Break Learning Activities

PLAY TOGETHER	HIT THE KITCHEN
<p>Playing games can be both fun and educational. Board games like Monopoly can teach vocabulary and money concepts to children. Card games, such as rummy or Uno, provide opportunities to develop counting and strategy skills. Interactive video games allow the whole family to participate in a sport, like bowling, within the comfort of their own home. Children sometimes develop a competitive edge around eight years old, and, according to Fred Frankel, Ph.D., a medical psychology professor at Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, parents should welcome opportunities to demonstrate good sportsmanship early in a child's life</p>	<p>Cooking a meal together can provide opportunities for conversation, as well as teaching children a new skill. One approach is to allow each person to select their favorite meal to prepare. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that sitting down with your children for a meal is also a good way to keep the doors of communication open, and it reduces the risk of youth substance abuse. Baking old family recipes together is another way to include family memories while talking about your family heritage. Decorating cookies or cupcakes allows creativity to blossom.</p>
TALENT SHOWCASE	DISCOVER YOUR OWN BACKYARD
<p>Children often love performing for their family members. Plan an old fashioned talent show with singing, dancing or magic tricks. Create your own version of an idol show, complete with costumes, and make sure everyone gets in on the act. A karaoke machine can bring out the singer in everyone. Act out a skit or favorite movie scenes together. Charades is also an opportunity to demonstrate skills in relaying a message.</p>	<p>Get out the telescope and spend an evening on the back patio stargazing. Share stories about night time activities you have experienced through the years. Pitch a tent and go camping in your own backyard. Heat up the grill and make s'mores before going to bed. Talk about what you most enjoyed about your family night and plan for the next one.</p>

Give the Gift of Reading

BOOKS



Reading over the winter break is crucial for your child to continue to grow as a reader. Though reading over the holidays is meant to be an enjoyable task, it's easy to get lost in the preparation and forget to keep children on a regular reading schedule, especially with FCAT right around the corner. With these enjoyable activities there's no reason why kids can't keep their minds sharp during the holidays. And, believe it or not, they can have fun while doing it. Here are some ways to sneak in learning during the break.

- Have your children read holiday cards when they are received in the mail, and let them write a message in outgoing cards
- Let children read ingredients from holiday recipes while you bake together. It's a great way for them to learn measurements and temperatures.
- Set aside time for kids to "show off" their new reading skills to visiting relatives. Children love being the focus of attention, and grandparents are usually more than willing to see their progress.
- Make special holiday readings a tradition. Find a special book for Hanukkah or Christmas, and have each member of the family read from it at the same time each year.
- Even if no books make your child's wish list, make sure you give at least one as a gift, and encourage him/her to read it.
- Find books that focus on an interest your child has. For example if he/she asks for a bike find a book on Lance Armstrong, or a children's book that includes a bicycle adventure. There are books out there to suit every interest under the sun—it just takes a little browsing.
- Visit the Just Read, Florida website for a list of holiday books.
(<http://www.justreadfamilies.org>)



A book is more than just words on a page. A book can inform, explain and entertain. A book can fill empty time with walks down Memory Lane, adventures into the wilderness, journeys into outer space, and illustrate cultures, customs and traditions. A book can capture the soul, hearts and mind of a friend you have never met. A book, is more than words on a page.

Kindergarten and First Grade

Green Eggs and Ham- Dr. Seuss
The Foot Book- Dr. Seuss
Are You My Mother?- P.D. Eastman
Hop on Pop- Dr. Seuss
Biscuit- Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Biscuit Finds a Friend- Alyssa Satin Capucilli
One Fish, Two Fish, Blue Fish- Dr. Seuss
Clifford the Big Red Dog- Norman Bridwell
All by Myself- Mercer Mayer
The Very Hungry Caterpillar- Eric Carle
If You Give a Moose a Muffin- Laura Numeroff
Goodnight Moon- Margaret Wise Brown
The Cat in the Hat- Dr. Seuss
David Goes to School- David Shannon

Second & Third Grade

Miss Nelson is Missing!- Harry Allard
The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash- Trinka Hakes Noble
Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night- Cynthia Rylant
Dolphins at Daybreak- Mary Pope Osborne
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs- Judi Barrett
The Polar Express- Chris Van Allsburg
Where the Wild Things Are- Maurice Sendak
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs- Jon Scieszka
Freckle Juice- Judy Blume
Ramona Quimby, Age 8- Beverly Cleary
Junie B. Jones Series- Barbara Park
Officer Buckle and Gloria- Peggy Rathmann
The Keeping Quilt- Patricia Polacco
Dogzilla- Dav Pilkey

Fourth & Fifth Grade

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing- Judy Blume
Sarah, Plain and Tall- Patricia MacLachlan
Because of Winn Dixie- Kate DiCamillo
Charlotte's Web- E.B. White
Stone Fox- John Reynolds Gardiner
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever- Barbara Robinson
Holes- Louis Sachar
Frindle- Andrew Clements
The Adventures of Captain Underpants- Dav Pilkey
The Bad Beginning- Lemony Snicket
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory- Roald Dahl
Shiloh- Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Island of the Blue Dolphin- Scott O'Dell
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe- C.S. Lewis
Harry Potter Series- J.K. Rowling
Number the Stars- Lois Lowry
Hatchet- Gary Paulsen
Matilda- Roald Dahl



Give the Gift that will Last...

A Library Card

For more information www.osceolalibrary.org

or call 407-742-8888

Suggested Books for **Math** Reading K-5

Measuring Penny by Loreen Leedy (K-5)

Sir Cumference and the First Round Table -Cindy Neuschwander and Wayne Geehan (3-5)

The Grapes of Math -Greg Tang and Harry Briggs (3-5)

Fraction Action - Loreen Leedy (3-5)

Math Curse -Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith (3-5)

Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar - Mitsumasa Anno (3-5)

Lemonade for Sale - Stuart J. Murphy and Tricia Tusa (K-2)

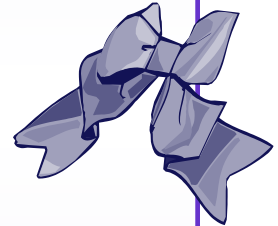
Spaghetti and Meatballs for All - Marilyn Burns (K-2)

One Hundred Hungry Ants - Elinor J. Princzes and Bonnie Mackain (K-2)

How Big is a Foot? - Rolf Myller (K-2)

Quack and Count -Keith Baker (K-2)

Clocks and More Clocks -Pat Hutchins (K-2)



Check out more books at:

Tumblebooks (Elementary eBooks) <http://www.osceolalibrary.org>

Click on "Kids Space" Select "School Resources" Scroll down to Tumblebooks Library



Suggested Books for **Science** Reading K-5

The Big Rock - Bruce Hiscock (1-4)

Earthsteps -Diane Nelson Spickert (K-3)

If You Find a Rock - Peggy Christian (K-3)

Amazing Arctic Animals -Jackie Glassman (K-3)

What Do You Know About Animal Adaptations? - Suzanne Slade (2-5)

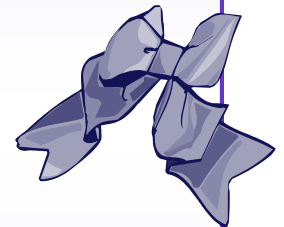
Amazing Forces and Movement -Sally Hewitt (2-5)

Exploring Forces and Movement -Carol Ballard (1-4)

The Big Dipper - Franklyn Branley (K-1)

Do Stars Have Points? - Melvin & Gilda Berger (3-5)

Batteries, Bulbs and Wires - David Glover (2-5)





KidBiz (Elementary)

Username: Student ID number
Password: Student Birthday (MMDD)
<http://www.kidbiz3000.com>

Parent Internet Viewer

Username: Student ID number
Password: Student Birthday (MMDD)
<https://piv.osceola.k12.fl.us>

Starfall Pre-K—Grade 2

Primarily designed for first grade, this site is also useful for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and second grade to inspire a love of reading and writing.
<http://www.starfall.com>

Renaissance Place

For the Accelerated Reader
Username: Student ID number
Password: Student first name
<https://renplace.osceola.k12.fl.us>



TeachingBooks.net

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/home>

Tumblebooks

Elementary eBooks:
Click on “Kids Space”
Select “School Resources”
Scroll down to Tumblebooks Library
<http://www.osceolalibrary.org>

Compass Odyssey

For those students attending schools that have purchased Compass Odyssey, this program is accessible from home.
Username: Student ID number
Password: Student ID number
<https://odyssey.osceola.k12.fl.us>

FCAT Explorer

Students receive their username and password from their school.
Username: (See Classroom Teacher)
Password: (See Classroom Teacher)
<http://www.fcatexplorer.com/>

Discovery Science K-8

Username: Student ID number
Password: Student first name
<http://www.discoveryeducation.com>

Osceola Library System

Visit School Resources under Kid's Space to find the Tumblebooks Library for online reading
<http://www.osceolalibrary.org/>

Storyline Online

Features members of the Screen Actors Guild reading children's books aloud
<http://www.storylineonline.net>

Homework Spot

A free homework information portal that features K-12 homework-related sites
<http://www.homeworkspot.com>

Math Dictionary for Kids

<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>

National Geographic for Kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids>

Free Educational Apps

- [Fry Words](#)—List of most commonly used words in reading and writing.
- [Phonics Genius](#)—over 6,000 words grouped by phonics sounds.
- [Little Speller Three Little Words](#)—Helps beginning readers spell 3 letter words.
- [My Math App](#)—Math flash cards .
- [Advanced Dinosaur Math](#)—Beginning math facts.
- [Virtual Manipulatives](#)—Fractions, decimals and percents.
- [PBS KIDS Video](#)—Educational videos in reading, science, math and more.
- [Touch Xylophone!](#)—Play the virtual xylophone.
- [Counting Money](#)—Counting coins.

The websites provided are educational sites that have been recommended and reviewed by teachers.

Winter Vacation Education Parent Resource Guide has been provided to you from the Elementary Education Curriculum and Instruction Department of The School District of Osceola County, Florida.

ALL ABOUT WRITING

Develop Fun, Family Activities That Encourage Writing

Shape Poems 3-5

By creating a shape poem, children will learn the basic steps involved in writing a poem: finding a topic, brainstorming for ideas, coming up with a title, writing, revising, and publishing. From basketballs to balloons, children can choose from a variety of shapes. Building the poem inside the shape helps to focus children's attention on the topic. Best of all, this activity teaches children that poetry can be fun and is something everyone can do.

All About Me (Use photos to write stories) K-2

This activity has children write about photos and then choose their favorite sentences for a homemade memory book.

Interviews

Encourage children to ask family members about life experiences, take notes and write short articles or stories based on what they learn. This can be especially fun if they ask a grandparent about a historical anniversary or an activity that is no longer common, like listening to radio shows.

Journals

Buy your child a special notebook to write in. Encourage him to write about daily activities, important life events, feelings and other personal topics.

Television

Turn watching television into an educational activity by asking children to write about a program they've seen. They can re-tell the show's story, or better yet, explore the values and meanings it expressed.

Reading

Read aloud to your children. This will improve their writing by exposing them to well-written sentences and well-expressed ideas.

Proud displays

Have a place in your home where you display your children's writing. This will build their confidence and encourage them to write more often.

Dictation

Encourage very young children to generate ideas and think in complete sentences. This will help prepare them to write alone when they get older. Encourage children to dictate stories and ideas to you, and keep them so they can read them later.

Make a Menu

Let your child design and write the menu for a family dinner while you do the cooking. Write difficult words for them to copy, or let them look up words in a dictionary. This activity can be done on art paper with gel pens, or on a word processing program.

Write Lists

Let your child write the grocery list as you dictate what you need from the store. This is a good way to keep her occupied while waiting to go to the store and to help your child develop a sense of responsibility for household activities. Children can also write lists to pack for a trip, plan a busy week, and prepare for back-to-school or holidays.

Write a Letter to Grandparents

Keep a supply of kid notecards and stationery on hand for letter writing. A letter from a grandchild is always a delight; invented spelling and punctuation is overlooked!



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READING ACTIVITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

BLAST OFF!

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

27	4	Today is National Cookie Day. Find a recipe for sugar cookies and make them with your friends.	11	What are the three most common languages in the world? Find out!	18	Write a skit with your friends about the holidays. Perform it for your family.	25	Merry Christmas! To celebrate, read <i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> by Barbara Robinson.	31	Happy New Year's Eve! Make a list of reading resolutions for the new year.
28	5	Write a letter to yourself. Seal it and plan to open it on this date next year.	12	Read to someone younger today.	19	Nothing rhymes with the word "orange." Can you think of other words with no rhyme?	26	It's the first day of Kwanzaa. Read <i>Donna L. Washington's L'il Rabbit's Kwanzaa</i> .	30	Write a story about some of the things that happened to you this year.
29	6	Read a chapter of a book to your family tonight.	13	In the U.K., trucks are called "lorries." What other words are different in this country?	20	Hanukkah starts at sundown tonight. Read <i>The Borrowed Hanukkah</i> Latkes by Linda Glaser.	27	Cut out snowflakes and write your wishes for the new year on them. Have an adult help you hang them from your ceiling.	29	Today is Molly Bang's birthday. Read <i>The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher</i> .
30	7	Read for 20 minutes today.	14	The South Pole was discovered on this day in 1911. Who discovered it?	21	Learn how to play Solitaire using a deck of cards.	28	Play outside this afternoon, and then come inside and warm up with a good book and some hot chocolate.	22	It's the first day of winter. Make a list of books you'd like to read this season.
1	8	Visit the library and ask the librarian to recommend a science fiction book.	15	Look at the newspaper on the way to school this morning.	21	Learn how to play Solitaire using a deck of cards.	28	Play outside this afternoon, and then come inside and warm up with a good book and some hot chocolate.	23	Create a word search using winter-themed words.
2	9	Write a preface or an epilogue for the book you are currently reading.	16	Happy birthday, Quentin Blake! Enjoy his wordless book, <i>Clown</i> .	20	Hanukkah starts at sundown tonight. Read <i>The Borrowed Hanukkah</i> Latkes by Linda Glaser.	27	Cut out snowflakes and write your wishes for the new year on them. Have an adult help you hang them from your ceiling.	23	Create a word search using winter-themed words.
3	10	The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded each year on this date. Learn more about the prize.	17	Learn more about the Mexican holiday of Las Posadas, which is celebrated Dec. 16-24.	21	Learn how to play Solitaire using a deck of cards.	28	Play outside this afternoon, and then come inside and warm up with a good book and some hot chocolate.	24	Find a simple muffin recipe and make breakfast for your family.
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December is Read a New Book Month. Head to the library and check out a new book!