Getting Ready for Summer!

In this issue!

- Page 2 & 3 Parent Resource Centers & Books Bridge Bus
- Page 4 Accelerated Learning
- Page 5 Three Ways to Prevent the Summer Slide
- Page 6 & 7 Reading Rockets! [http://www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)
- Page 8 & 9 Kindergarten and Preschool Registration
- Page 10 & 11 Family Fundamentals—resources for families
- Page 12 Ideas for summer reading
- Page 13 Ten Critical Facts about Summer Reading!

The Elementary Science Showcase is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th at Lakeland Square Mall. Showcase facilitation through inquiry circles.

Important dates

- Last day of School-June 2

For more information about Federal programs and Title I parent involvement please visit [www.polk-fl.net](http://www.polk-fl.net)

District and School-based Title I Parent and Family Engagement Programs in Polk County will strive to BUILD RELATIONSHIPS that create real family engagement for every child, every family, every teacher, every day.
Homework Help
Help with homework for elementary and middle school students is offered at each center every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-6:00 pm.

The help is provided by high school honor students or adult volunteers.

Please call the center to sign up for the homework help.
NEW PILOT PROGRAM!

BOOKS BRIDGE BUS!

MOBILE ACTIVITY CENTER for FAMILIES
Come visit the bus to see what we offer for parents and families!

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The Bus offers families...
- Weekly parent workshops & activities
- Information on community resources
- 20 iPad with Wi-Fi
- Rosetta Stone
- Materials for checkout and return!

FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT
At the parent center located on the campus of Mulberry Middle School
It is that time again for students (and parents) to begin thinking about next school year and courses in which students should enroll.

In Polk County Public Schools, we offer opportunities for students who are above average academically to participate in **Accelerated Programs**.

For example, in middle school, eligible students should be taking courses labeled as “Advanced” and some high school courses such as Algebra 1 Honors.

In High School, students can participate in Advanced Placement courses. Two of the benefits of participating in Advanced Placement courses include:

**Standing out in college admissions**

Deciding to take an AP course lets colleges and universities know that you have what it takes to succeed in an undergraduate environment. When admissions officers see “AP” on your transcript, they know that what you experienced in a particular class has prepared you well for the challenges of college.

**Earning college credits**

By taking an AP course and scoring successfully on the related AP Exam, you can save on college expenses: most colleges and universities nationwide offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam scores. These credits can allow students to save college tuition, study abroad, or secure a second major. AP can transform what once seemed unattainable into something within reach.

A ten-minute video regarding some of our Accelerated Programs is available at [https://vimeo.com/195986252](https://vimeo.com/195986252).

Additional information can be found on our website: [www.polk-fl.net](http://www.polk-fl.net)  
Keyword: Accelerated Programs, or by contacting your child’s school counselor.
Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide

Try these strategies to help your reader improve her reading during the summer and beyond.

Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they’ve learned or slip out of practice during the summer months. Try these strategies to help your reader improve her reading during the summer and beyond:

**Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Libraries often run summer reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area. Also check our book lists for recommendations.

**Read something every day:** Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day:

- **Morning:** The newspaper — even if it is just the comics or today's weather.
- **Daytime:** Schedules, TV guides, magazines, online resources, etc. For example, if your daughter likes the food channel, help her look for a recipe on the network's Web site — then cook it together for more reading practice.
- **Evening:** End the day by having your child read to you from the book he is currently reading (one of the six books, above). Have him rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you. Rereading will help him be more fluent — able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with nice expression.

**Keep reading aloud:** Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.

It's hard to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions. These suggestions will fit into a busy schedule and make reading fun!

Visit the PUBLIC LIBRARY in your Area


Sign up in May— http://www.startwithabook.org/sms
READING ROCKETS
A Great online PARENT RESOURCE!
VISIT: http://www.readingrockets.org

Follow us:

Reading Rockets
is a national multimedia project that offers research-based and best-practice information on teaching

Find resources and activities on this website that can help your child become an engaged reader, including literacy adventure packs themed booklist, author interviews, nonfiction resources, summer reading suggestions and more.

Reading Rocket’s annual summer booklist makes it easy to find great books kids will enjoy during the long, lazy days of summer!

Visit the website to find SUMMER READING BOOKLISTS!

Sign up for our free E-Newsletters!

Monthly tips for parents
http://www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras

Growing Readers
Written especially for parents, Growing Readers (formerly Ed Extras) provides monthly tips for raising strong readers and writers.

http://pbskids.org/lab

Games and activities that build math and reading skills for kids 3-8
Reading Tips for Parents (in 11 Languages)

By: Reading Rockets

A child’s success as a reader begins much earlier than the first day of school. Reading, and a love for reading, begins at home. Our one-page parent tips offer easy ways for parents to help kids become successful readers. Although we’ve divided these tips by age, many of them can be used with children at various ages and stages — we encourage you to choose the ones that work best for your child.

Reading tips for parents of children with disabilities

- Tips for Parents of Children with Speech and Language Problems
- Tips for Parents of Children with ADHD
- Tips for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Tips for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss or Deafness
- Tips for Parents of Children with Low Vision or Blindness
- Tips for Parents of Children with Intellectual Disabilities
- Tips for Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy

PBS Launching Young Readers series

Launching Young Readers is a public television series designed for teachers, parents, caregivers and anyone else interested in helping children learn to read. Based on the latest research findings, these 30-minute programs feature the country’s top reading experts, look at different reading strategies, provide practical advice for parents, and interweave the personal stories of children, families and teachers.

Learn more about Launching Young Readers >

Now you can watch each program online, learn more about each show, and browse all of the related resources:

- The Roots of Reading
- Sounds and Symbols
- Fluent Reading
- Writing and Spelling
- Reading for Meaning
- Reading Rocks!
- Empowering Parents
- Becoming Bilingual
- Reading and the Brain
- A Chance to Read
- Toddlers Toward Reading
- Adventures in Summer Learning
- Growing Writers
Polk County Public Schools will again have the option for parents and guardians to register their children online for kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year.

To ensure that your kindergartener gets a seat at his or her zoned school, parents need to register their child beginning Monday, April 3. The registration period ends on Friday, May 5, 2017.

On April 27th, schools will designate a time for parents to visit and tour the school. Watch for specific times on the school marquee. Students entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1, 2017.

To enroll a new kindergarten student, parents and/or guardians must present the following:

(1) birthdate verification, a current physical exam dated within the last 12 months and a certificate of immunization (Florida Department of Health form 680) showing all shots including second MMR, polio, DPT/DTaP, Hepatitis B series and second varicella or signed proof of chicken pox. For further information about documentation requirements, parents and guardians are asked to contact their zoned school.

(2) Two proofs of residency are required. Acceptable proofs of residency include: mortgage document, property tax record, home or apartment lease agreement, a current utility bill (electric, gas, phone, water, cable), current voter registration document, proof of government benefits (Medicare, disability, food stamps, DCF correspondence), current Florida Driver’s License, automobile registration or automobile insurance.

Steps for Registration
• Visit www.polk-fl.net/PARENTS/enroll/default.htm to view a helpful video on how to enroll your child in a Polk County Public School and what documents you will need.
• Gather the necessary documents and take them to your student’s zoned school.
• Visit the school your student is zoned for to obtain a paper enrollment packet.
• Complete all information and return packet to school.

Steps for Online Registration
• Gather the necessary documents. If your student is currently enrolled in a Polk County Pre-K or VPK program, you cannot register online.
• Log in using an existing Parent Portal account or create an account by visiting the Parent Portal website at: https://parent.mypolkschools.net or www.polk-fl.net Keyword Search: Enroll
• Click the menu item titled “Pre-Registration” then follow the on-screen prompts.
• If assistance is needed during this process, contact the Polk County Public Schools’ IST Help Desk at 863.519.8040 or HelpDesk@polk-fl.net.

Information concerning Pre-K registration is available at your child’s zoned school. For additional information about Kindergarten Registration/Round-Up contact your child’s zoned school. If you have questions about your child’s zoned school, contact Polk County Public Schools’ Office of Pupil Accounting at 863.534.0716.
Preschool Programs

Welcome

Polk Preschool Programs are built on the premise that every family, regardless of economic status, needs support. Given that support, every member of the family can grow. Together the family members will gain confidence in themselves as individuals and as a family unit. And it works!

Choosing an early education program for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. We understand how important it is to you and your family that you have the information you need to make an informed decision.

2017 SUMMER PreK Enrollment (Available April 2017)

2017-18 Prekindergarten Enrollment (Begins March 1st, 2017)

We are accepting applications for our 2017-18 Prekindergarten classes. There are no registration fees or supply fees. If you choose a full day option, you pay for the days school is open.

Polk County Schools Prekindergarten programs have been very successful in providing a high quality early childhood education program for 4 year olds. We offer full school day (fee required) and Free 3 hour sessions for 4 year old VPK students.

For More Information: Call (863) 648-3051

Don’t Delay! Apply Today!
Come Enjoy These FUN, FREE, FAMILY Activities

**Children’s Offerings**

**Great Beginnings**  
A weekly class for parents/caregivers and babies up to age two. Each week parents will discuss a different topic while learning to socialize with others as they participate in fun, stimulating, developmental activities.  
Wednesday 10:30am – 11:30am  
—Sponsored by Heartland for Children

**Growing Beyond Books**  
Story and school readiness activity time offered to preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) and an adult family member or caregiver using the model classroom.  
Thursdays 9:30am – 11:30 am  
—Sponsored by Publix Supermarkets Charities

**Let’s Move Together**  
2 Year olds. Class consists of 30 minutes of movement and 15 minutes of adult/child interactive school activities in our model classroom.  
Fridays 11:15am – 12:00pm  
—Sponsored by Publix Supermarkets Charities

**Let’s Move Together**  
Ages 3 – 5. Class consists of 45 minutes of movement and 45 minutes of adult/child interactive school readiness activities in our model classroom.  
Fridays 9:30am – 11:00 am  
—Sponsored by Publix Supermarkets Charities

**My Play & Learn Time**  
Story and school readiness activity time offered to preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) and an adult family member or caregiver using the model classroom.  
Mondays 9:30am – 11:30 am  
—Sponsored by Publix Supermarkets Charities

**Terrific Tuesday**  
Story and school readiness activity time offered to preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) and an adult family member or caregiver using the model classroom.  
Tuesdays from 9:30am – 11:30am  
—Sponsored by Publix Supermarkets Charities

**Read, Sing & Play**  
“Read, Sing & Play” is a fun learning activity that gives 2 year olds and their parents the chance to interact in a learning environment where teachers model learning strategies and offer support. Parent socialize as they participate in fun, stimulating, developmental activities.  
Wednesdays 9:00am – 10:00am  
—Sponsored by Heartland for Children

**Wonderful Wednesdays**  
Pre-school story and school readiness activity time for children ages 3 – 5 and an adult family member or caregiver.  
Wednesdays 9:30am – 11:30am  
—Facilitated by Explorations Children’s Museum  
—Sponsored by Publix Supermarkets Charities
Adult Offerings

CPR & First Aid
Training programs for community members to learn life saving skills before professional help arrives. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. For more information or to register call 863-680-1.
— Sponsored by Citizen CPR

Foster Parent Support Group
Monthly support group for foster parents caring for children. At each monthly meeting you will be able to share experiences while learning about other support services and resources. For more information call the office at 863-694-0753.
Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month 6:00pm – 8:00pm

GAP Program Support Group
Monthly support group designed for relative and non-relative caregivers raising children. At each monthly meeting you will be able to relax and enjoy a meal with other caregivers, share your experiences and resources. For more information call the office at 863-694-0753.
Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month 11:30am – 1:00pm
— Sponsored by Devereaux Kids

Infant Massage
Ages: Infants – 1 Year. Learn the basic techniques of soothing, comforting and relaxing your baby. Improve bonding with your baby and improve your baby’s digestive flow. Pre-registration is required.
For more information contact Family Fundamentals at 863-685-1221 x 221
Classes are the Third Thursday of each month 9:00am – 11:00am
— Sponsored by Heartland for Children

Parenting Classes
Healthy Families Polk. For more information call 863-534-5344.
Meetings are evenings 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Family Fundamentals Current Activities

Senior Offerings

Senior Scholar Classes
Fitness & Yoga for Seniors
Beginning & Intermediate Computer Class for Seniors
Spanish for Beginners (Seniors) For more information call 863-685-5848 ext 149.
— Sponsored by CATT Rall Senior Connections and Education Center
Ideas for summer reading fun

Make sure kids have something to read during the summer — put books into children's hands. Register with First Book and gain access to award-winning new books for free and to deeply discounted new books and educational materials or find other national and local programs and organizations that can help.

Get your local public library to sign kids up for summer reading before school is out. Invite or ask your school librarian to coordinate a visit from the children's librarian at the public library near the end of the school year. Ask them to talk about summer activities, educational videos, and audio books at the library and to distribute summer reading program materials.

Get to know your community public library better. Find out if your public library is part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a grassroots effort to provide high-quality summer reading programs for kids. The theme for 2016 is On your mark, get set ... read! Colorín Colorado has tips for parents in English and in Spanish about visiting the local library. Or check out our top 9 reasons to rediscover your public library.

Let parents and kids know about the free summer reading incentive programs. At Pizza Hut's BOOK IT! program, find out how to Reading. The Scholastic Be a Reading Superhero Summer Reading Challenge encourages kids to log the minutes they spend reading and map their accomplishments. Kids can participate in weekly challenges, earn digital rewards, and enter to win prizes. With the Barnes & Noble Imagination's Destination challenge, your child can earn a free book after reading eight books (and parents receive a summer reading kit full of activities). With the TD Bank Summer Reading Program, kids read and keep track of 10 books and can get $10 added to their Young Saver account.

Help kids build math and science skills over the summer. Share our Literacy in the Sciences series with families. Each one-page tip sheet (in English and Spanish) suggests easy hands-on activities as well as fiction and nonfiction books to extend the learning. In this section you'll also find links to great science websites for kids, blogs about children's science books, and links to PBS KIDS science programs and activities.

Encourage parents to start a neighborhood book club with other families this summer. It's a great way to keep the summer learning social and low-key. Warmer weather can inspire some not-so-run-of-the-mill meeting places, too: a tent or picnic blanket in the backyard. If the book club catches on, it's something to continue throughout the school year. PBS Parents has a wonderful collection of tips on how to start a club and encourage great discussions. Our special education blogger, June Behrmann, shares ideas (and title selections) for starting your own mother-daughter "accessible " book club using print alternatives.

Suggest to parents that they set up a summer listening program which encourages their children to listen to written language. Research shows that some children with learning disabilities profit from reading the text and listening to it at the same time.
10 Critical Facts about Summer Reading

Losses from the "Summer Slide"

- learning or reading skill losses during the summer months are cumulative, creating a wider gap each year between more proficient and less proficient students. By the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement.  

- Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.  

- Teachers typically spend between 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer.  

- It is estimated that the "Summer Slide" accounts for as much as 85% of the reading achievement gap between lower income students and their middle- and upper-income peers.  

- During the school year, lower income children’s skills improve at close to the same rate as those of their more advantaged peers – but over the summer, middle- and upper-income children’s skills continue to improve, while lower income children’s skills do not.  

- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.  

- 3rd graders who can’t read on grade level are four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a proficient reader.  

- Having reading role-model parents or a large book collection at home has a greater impact on kids’ reading frequency than does household income.  

- An overwhelming 92% of kids say they are more likely to finish a book they picked out themselves.  

- Ninety-nine percent of parents think children their child’s age should read over the summer.  

- Parents think their children should read an average of 11 books over the summer, ranging from 17 books for children ages 6-8, to 6 books for 15- to 17-year olds.  

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