



For Title I schools in Fairfax County

Title I is a federally funded program that provides additional resources to support student achievement.

Coordinator's Corner



As daylight fades earlier each day, children come home and spend more time inside with their parents. These extra minutes are a bonus that parents can use to set up their son or daughter for success in school.

Helping your child to improve his or her reading and thinking skills by reading aloud together, or by listening to a book on CD together, are proven ways to support your child's success. Much of the power in the parent-child interaction comes from the conversations you have with your child about the story. When your child sees your interest in reading, your actions will reinforce your child's interest in reading.

Good readers are continually building skills that help them to be good writers too. When parents read fiction stories, non-fiction books, or poetry to their children it gives children ideas for things they might want to write about in school. The next article about students at Parklawn Elementary will give you an idea about how students at one Title I school are becoming better writers.

Teachers in our Title I schools are working hard to help your children become strong readers and writers. Parents should make the most of every reading and writing opportunity outside of school so that they can support their children's success in school.

We hope you and your child have a great year!

Catherine Wagner, Coordinator



Title I Parents Matter is published by the Fairfax County Public Schools Title I office to inform parents of Title I programs and activities.

For more information about the Title I program in Fairfax County:

- Talk to the principal at your child's school.
- Call the FCPS Title I office at 703- 846-8642.
- Visit the FCPS Title I web site:
www.fcps.edu/DIS/OEIAS/title1/index.htm



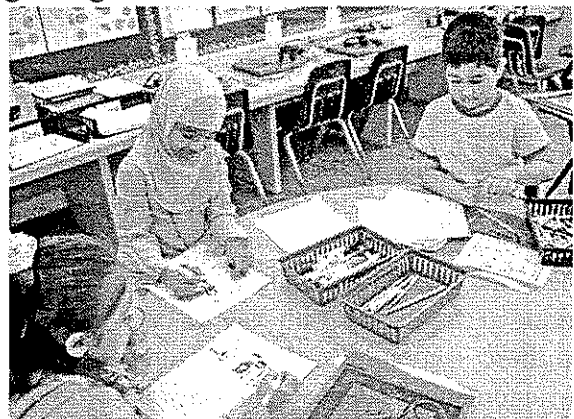
Parklawn Writes!

By Judy Waller, Title I Reading teacher

Students at Parklawn Elementary are learning to become better writers. They start their first writing lessons in kindergarten. It begins with drawing pictures to tell real-life stories of what is happening in their lives. They might draw a picture about going to the park with mom or dad. Students are taught to say words slowly and to listen for the sounds they hear. They do this to write labels for their pictures and thus begin constructing simple sentences.

By first grade, the students begin to write longer stories. They are still writing about real events in their lives at the beginning of the year. By the end of first grade, they learn to write simple non-fiction reports. They study how to edit their writing to make sure it makes sense and that their words are spelled correctly.

As the students move up in grades, they master more writing skills each year. They learn to model their favorite authors. They experiment with different kinds of writing. They write fiction stories, poetry, "how-to" pieces, persuasive writing and non-fiction pieces. By the end of fifth grade, they have had a writing lesson and practiced writing almost every day since they began kindergarten. That's over a thousand days of writing practice at Parklawn! Through elementary school, they celebrate their published pieces with family and classmates. We congratulate their efforts at becoming authors and encourage them to continue writing throughout their lives.



First graders at Parklawn draw pictures before writing their stories.

Title I District Advisory Council Meetings

The Title I District Advisory Council (DAC) is made up of parents and Title I staff members who meet to plan and implement the Title I programs in Fairfax County Public Schools and discuss increasing parent involvement in school. Representatives from each Title I school attend the countywide DAC meetings five times per year and report back to their respective schools. DAC participants share information about Title I and about family involvement opportunities and programs. The meetings are open and all parents are invited to attend. At the end of the year, the DAC presents a report to the School Board.

Title I DAC meetings will be held in a variety of school locations at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, October 26, 2009 – Lacey Center
Monday, December 7, 2009 – Bucknell ES
Monday, January 25, 2010 – Lacey Center
Monday, March 8, 2010 – Dogwood ES
Monday, May 3, 2010 – To be decided

Come join us at the DAC meetings. Learn more about the Title I program and parent involvement programs in other Title I schools throughout the county. If you need directions or additional information, please call the Title I Office, Lacey Center, 703-846-8639.



Look on Your School's Web Site

Last year, the Title I District Advisory Council recommended that each Title I school post their *School-Home Compact* and their *Family Involvement Policy* on their school web site. You can now find these documents on every Fairfax County Title I schools' web site. These documents indicate the commitment our Title I schools have to working in partnership with parents for student success.

On these school sites, the logo for a Title I school (above) automatically links you to the FCPS Title I Internet site where you will be able to find out more about the Title I programs in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Partnering with Parents

Partnerships among schools, families and community groups are an important key to student success. When these three groups work together and form strong relationships, student achievement increases.

This year, five Title I schools have committed to strengthening their partnerships with parents and community groups by joining the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) located at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Braddock, Cameron, Lynbrook, Groveton and Woodlawn Elementary Schools are the five schools that will participate this academic year.

First, the schools created teams, called Action Teams for Partnerships. Teams consist of parents, teachers, administrators, parent liaisons, and other staff members. The teams met in August to learn more about strong parent involvement programs and drafted four parent involvement goals for this year. The goals focus on enhancing student achievement, making the school a more welcoming place for families and community members, and improving student behavior.

The teams use a structure, developed by nationally renowned researcher Joyce Epstein, to create measurable goals for parent involvement. The teams work throughout the year to implement their plans and reach their goals as a school community. In June, they will evaluate their progress and report their findings to Johns Hopkins University.

All of our Title I schools are dedicated to reaching out to parents and their communities. This NNPS program gives schools opportunities to focus their efforts on goals they have identified as priorities. Initiatives such as these build parent and community involvement in schools which eventually leads to increased student achievement.



Schools participate in the NNPS training offered by Title I.