

Speech & Language Corner

Did you know? Speech pathologists, sometimes informally referred to as speech therapists or speech clinicians, do not just work on speech sound production. We are educated to assess and treat both speech and language development. In schools, we treat language delays and disorders (syntax, semantics, vocabulary, and processing, etc.) as much as speech disorders (articulation, apraxia, stuttering, and voice disorders).

Did you know? Language-based learning disabilities interfere with age-appropriate reading, spelling, and writing. Contrary to what many think, this disorder does not impair intelligence. Learning disabilities are caused by a difference in brain structure that is present at birth and often related to specific language problems.

Did you know? Childhood apraxia of speech is a disorder of the nervous system that affects the ability to sequence and say sounds, syllables, and words. It is not due to muscular weakness or paralysis. The problem is in the brain's planning to move the body parts needed for speech. The child knows what he or she wants to say, but the brain is not sending the correct instructions to move the body parts of speech the way they need to be moved.

Have questions about Hayfield's speech and language program? Please contact me via email below, or you can also find more speech and language information at www.asha.org.

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Winter Break is December 23 through January 2.

The staff and faculty of Hayfield Elementary School wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and winter break! The school and the office will be closed from December 23 through January 2. School will begin again on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.



Full Day of School December 22- No Early Release

In the past we have had a two-hour early release the day before a holiday break, however, this year we will be in school for full day of instruction on Thursday, December 22, with the first day of break beginning on Friday, December 23.

Tomorrow Is The Last Day For The Angel Tree

Tomorrow is the last opportunity to donate to our Angel Tree in the lobby. The SCA will begin packing up the toys that have been donated and they will be delivered to *Toys for Tots*. The hats, mittens, and gloves will be delivered to Koinonia for distribution.

The SCA would like to thank everyone for their generosity this holiday season. Your kindness and support will help many families experience the joy of the season and keep them warm this winter. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Student Forms Available Online

This is just a reminder that you can update Emergency Care forms, health information, as well as have access to Opt-Out booklets and other required forms by visiting the following website: <http://www.fcps.edu/forms.shtml>.

Hayfield Elementary School Ornaments For Sale

You can still order a Hayfield Elementary ornament. The ornament commemorates the rededication of our school upon completion of its renovation in 2003. It is a pewter ornament that features the school entrance on its face. This makes a great gift and is a cherished keepsake. Ornaments are \$10 and may be paid for by cash or by checks

Here's What's Coming Up...

January 3	PTA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
January 16	Martin Luther King Day-School Closed
January 19	Rising Grade 7 Parent Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Thanks For A Great Staff Holiday Luncheon!

The Hospitality Committee would like to extend a very special thanks to all of the parents who contributed money and desserts to make the annual staff holiday luncheon extra special. The response was overwhelming and there were many delicious desserts. The staff really appreciated your efforts. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful staff and parent community. Have a happy holiday season!



Colleen Buck
Marilyn Di Nicolantonio
 PTA Hospitality Committee

Partial Immersion Enrollment Procedures

Fairfax County parents have the opportunity to register their rising kindergarten or first grade student for the immersion program at one or more of the twelve sites. A separate computer generated lottery for each site determines the acceptance and wait list order of those who registered. After notification of the lottery results, parents must select one school thereby releasing the student's name from the other lists, if the student registered for more than one lottery.

Since there is a separate lottery system for each site, there is no student transfer option to another immersion site after the student is enrolled in the initial immersion school the family selected. Students who reside outside the attendance area are also eligible but parents must provide transportation. Parents will be notified by mail about selection or placement on a waiting list.

Registration for 2012-2013 will open January 3, 2012 at 8:30 a.m..

For additional information please visit:
<http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml>

A Look At Holiday Traditions In Different Cultures

In the first December issue of the *School House News* we looked at Hanukkah and how people celebrate this holiday. This week we would like to continue looking at how different holidays are celebrated and we will be sharing information about Kwanzaa and Christmas.

What is Kwanzaa?



Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community and culture in late December, traditionally between December 26 and January 1. Kwanzaa was invented in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Karenga is an author and activist who stressed the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture. Dr. Karenga is chairperson of The Organization Us, founder and guiding spirit of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday but a cultural one based on various elements of the first harvest celebrations that are widely celebrated in Africa, as in the rest of the world.

Each of the days symbolizes one of Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba): Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). Kwanzaa was established in the midst of the Black Liberation or Black Freedom Movement of the 1960s, and reflects that movement's concerns for Afro-American cultural groundedness in thought and practice, and the community and self-determination associated with this.

The celebration's name derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits." An additional "a" was added to Swahili "kwanza" so that the word would have seven letters, one for each of the seven principles.

What is Christmas?

Evergreen trees decorated with lights and ornaments, wreaths, candy canes, Santa Claus—all of these are symbols of the Christmas season. It is a time of great joy as people gather with family and friends, purchase gifts for loved ones, and greet one another by saying "Merry Christmas!" The true meaning of Christmas, however, goes deeper than all of these things. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God who was born of the Virgin Mary. The word "Christmas" itself comes from the phrase "Mass of Christ" (a Mass is a worship service). The birth of Jesus is a time of celebration as Christians rejoice in God entering the world in the person of Jesus. In many homes and churches, crèches or nativity scenes are erected to re-enact the first Christmas so long ago. People attend special worship services on Christmas Eve (December 24) and Christmas Day (December 25), sing Christmas carols, and enjoy giving and receiving Christmas presents. Dinners with special foods are served for family and friends. Those in need are also remembered at Christmas, calling to mind how there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph (Jesus' earthly father), and so Mary gave birth to her son in a manger. Christmas is actually not one day, but twelve! The 12 days of Christmas last until January 6, the festival of the Epiphany, when the Wise Men came from afar to worship the Infant Jesus and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CORNER

Promoting Oral Language Development in Young Children

by Audrey W. Prince, M.Ed.



Research tells us that children who have strong oral language skills often have strong reading and writing skills. In contrast, children with oral language problems are at higher risk of reading and writing difficulties (Scarborough, 2001). Educators and parents should encourage oral language even in the earliest stages of a child's development. The following is a list of specific strategies to help promote oral language development in young children.

Talk with Your Children

Educators and parents should talk or converse with their children whenever possible. Children often love to talk about their friends, families, or favorite activities. Try to develop "talking points." Talking points are conversation starters that you can use with a child. Consider writing them on a set of note cards to keep with you whenever you want to promote conversation with a child. Make conversation a game by asking your child to "pick a card" to initiate a conversation.

Get Close & Listen

When speaking with children it is important to get close. The child should be able to see your lips and facial expressions, hear your voice clearly, and make eye contact with you. Making sure that you "get close" helps ensure that the child keeps an interest in what you are saying. Make sure during conversation with your child that you are sending a clear message that you are listening. When a child speaks to you, make comments about what they are saying, nod your head, or add "Mm-hmm," "Really?" or "Tell me more."

Respond and Expand

When a child says something to you, respond whenever possible. After you respond, try to expand the conversation. Add more context to the language even when a child's response is a simple one. For example, if the child says, "I like apples," the teacher/parent might say, "I like apples too. What kind of apples do you like best?" © 2006 Super Duper® Publications

Talk About What You Are Doing

Daily activities, such as cleaning up toys or snack time, provide many opportunities for language development. Talk with children about what they are doing and what you are doing. This type of talking exposes children to language in general, involves them in learning conversation skills, and helps children acquire and use vocabulary that is important in their everyday lives.

Tell Stories

Tell stories every day about things from the past or things that will happen. The teacher can talk about something the class might do that day or the parent can talk about an upcoming event. During a story, use prompts to encourage storytelling like, "Tell me a story," "What happened next?" and "When did that happen?" or "Tell me what you did at school (grandma's house) today."

Use Appropriate Levels of Vocabulary

When speaking with children we have to be careful to not use too many new words or too few new words. There is no magic formula for the correct number of words, so teachers and parents must be aware of each child's abilities to figure out if the vocabulary is confusing to the child or if he/she is able to keep up and understand.

Provide Prompts That Promote Oral Language

Include microphones, old telephones, puppets, flannel boards, and even paper towel tubes in your child's play area. Items to play dress-up are big hits with children. Pretending to be someone else encourages children to mimic the vocabulary, facial expressions, and body language that they see and hear from others. These types of prompts encourage oral language interactions. Make them available and encourage children to use them during their playtime.

Resource

V. S. Bennett-Armistead, *Literacy and the youngest learner*. Scholastic, Inc., New York, NY, 2005.

This handout was acquired from: www.superduperinc.com. This site has many great "handy handouts" in a variety of areas that will provide you with many great strategies. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's speech and/or language skills, please contact Pam Kugelman-Ryan, Hayfield Elementary's speech pathologist.



Help Fairfax Families This Holiday Season

Are you looking for ways to make the holiday season more meaningful for your family? Consider sponsoring a family for the holidays. Thousands of families in the Fairfax County area are still struggling to make ends meet. As the holidays approach, these families worry that they will not be able to provide gifts for their children or a holiday meal to celebrate the season.

Through a grant from Fairfax County, local non-profit Our Daily Bread (ODB) administers a Holiday Program that matches local families with community members who provide Thanksgiving and December holiday meals, as well as gifts for the children in the family.

Families are referred to the program by Fairfax County social workers and counselors, as well as local social services agencies. Many of the families ODB serves work multiple jobs to make ends meet, but still are unable to keep up with the high cost of housing, food, transportation, and utilities in the county. Others are searching for work after being laid off or cannot work because of illness or injury.

Participating in the Holiday Program is a wonderful group or family activity. It's a great way to give back to the community, because your help goes directly to a local family in need. In 2010, ODB's Holiday Program assisted more than 4,500 families. The need is expected to be even greater this year.

How Can I Help?

There are three ways to participate:

- **Sponsor a Family:** Purchase food for a holiday meal and arrange to deliver it to the family. For December holidays, you may also opt to purchase gifts or gift cards for the children in the family.
- **Be a Virtual Donor:** Donate funds that will be used to purchase a gift card to help a specific family. We'll notify you when we have sent your gift card.
- **Provide a Donation:** Our Daily Bread also welcomes contributions of money or gift cards, which will help us assist families who are not matched with sponsors.

How Do I Sign Up?

To sponsor a family or become a virtual donor, fill out our secure on-line donor form at www.ODBFairfax.org. ODB will match you with a family and send you all the information you need. To learn more, contact Our Daily Bread at info@ODBFairfax.org or 703-273-8829.

If you prefer to make a donation, visit the website and click on "Donate Now," or mail your contribution to Our Daily Bread Holiday Program, 4080 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.



Strengthening Your Parenting Skills

(A parenting skills class for parents of children infant – grade 6)

This is a parenting skills class for parents or guardians.
The class focuses on basic knowledge for more effective parenting.

Topics covered include:

Positive discipline strategies

Keeping kids safe at home and in the car

Child development

Communication

Problem solving and anger management

Self-esteem

Setting limits and boundaries

This class has four 2½- hour evening sessions from 7 -9:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2012
(This class is offered on a regular basis; call for additional dates)

Location: Dunn Loring Center
2334 Gallows Road
Dunn Loring, VA 22027

Cost: \$60.00 per person/ \$90.00 per couple

Registration/Information: Call Susie Johnson at 703-204-4343 or
Email: susie.johnson@fcps.edu

Website: <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/fam/resources/classes/index.shtml>

This class is also offered in Spanish and Korean.

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