

AT  
ALEXANDER  
ELEMENTARY

# PARENTS

Make A  
Difference!



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A note from:

**Mr. Wade**  
Elementary Principal

During this first week in March at Alexander Elementary we are having a celebration. We are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of a very special person.

Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss was born March 2, 1904. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 and three Academy Awards, Seuss was the author and illustrator of 44 children's books. Some of these books have been made into audio-cassettes, animated television specials, videos and movies for children of all ages. Even after his death in 1991, Dr. Seuss continues to be the best-selling author of children's books in the world!

Throughout this week to honor Dr. Seuss we have planned special events and activities focused on reading. We have everything from Crazy Sock Day to Family Read Night.

Dr. Seuss has helped millions of children around the world become better readers. The love he had for children shows strong through his books. We would all be wise to remember one of my favorite Seussisms which says,

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."



## What's Up!

Family Reading Night-  
Thursday, March 4 at  
6:00-7:00 PM in the gym. Everyone is  
welcome to come for a night of fun! Hear a  
professional storyteller, learn a magic trick,  
enjoy refreshments, and a drawing for prizes!

Grade Cards Go Out- Thursday, March 11.

No School- Friday, March 12.

Spring Break- March 15 – 19.

Channel 7 Weather Assembly- Friday, March  
26. Begins at 1:30pm in the gym.

Spring Pictures- Wednesday, March 31.

Kindergarten Screening- April 1 & 2. Any  
parents that have a child that plans to attend  
Kindergarten at Commerce Elementary needs  
to call the school to make an appointment to  
be screened.

Professional Day- No School  
Friday, April 9

**"A Person's a person, no  
matter how small!"**

Theodor Geisel  
a.k.a. Dr. Seuss



## Tip Sheet for Parents

# Help Your Child Develop a Love of Reading

Reading is the cornerstone to success at every grade and subject level.

According to the International Reading Association, when children are read to frequently at home, when their questions about books and print are answered, when they are given access to reading and writing materials, and when they receive positive reinforcement about literary activities, there are positive effects on their reading and writing abilities. Make sure your children spend at least 15 minutes every day reading.

### ***Tips for Reading With Your Children***

- \*Do it every day and pick a regular time. By doing so, you demonstrate that reading time is too important to miss.
- \*Leave them wanting more. Stop your day's reading at a point where your children are eager to hear what's next.
- \*Switch places. Let your child read to you one day and you read to your child the next.
- \*Read articles from magazines, newspapers and other materials aloud.
- \*Read for information and for fun.

### ***Talk With Your Child About Reading Habits***

- \*Do you preview the text by reading the main headings and looking at the pictures when you read?
- \*Do you make predictions about what you think will be in the novel or article?
- \*What do you do when you do not know a word?
- \*Do you make a guess and keep going or do you sound out every word you know letter by letter?
- \*What do you do when you have trouble understanding what the author said?
- \*Do you reread, summarizing what you have learned so far, and read further to see if you can get more information?

### ***Ask Questions***

Ask your child to tell you about the book he or she is reading. Questions include:

1. What do you think the book is going to be about?
2. How can you tell?
3. Were your guesses correct?
4. Were you given clues that something else was going to happen?
5. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?

### ***Other Helpful Hints***

- \*Find movies based on books. Then read the book and compare or vice-versa.
- \*Subscribe to magazines targeted at your child's interests.
- \*Have a reading light in your child's room so he/she can read anytime.
- \*Start your child on series books.
- \*Get children hooked on books by beginning a book and allowing them to finish on their own.
- \*Reading favorite books over and over helps children develop a love of books.
- \*Encourage your child to retell the story or story parts.
- \*Share your favorite books and magazine articles with your child.
- \*Invite your child to read the newspaper with you. Talk about an article that is on a subject of interest to your child. Even young children can gain information from pictures and can "read" some of the comic strips.
- \*Offer your child educational experiences outside school and the home. Visit parks, zoos, museums and historical sites.

**You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose.**

Theodor Geisel  
a.k.a. Dr. Seuss