



Dear Parents,

We have arrived at the final quarter of the school year MUCH too quickly! Our students have grown so much in so many ways! They have all been focused on the fun and learning found in school and are already looking toward our end-of-the-year events.

Our third-grade students will take on the NYS Math assessment on the 1st and 2nd and we thank you for supporting them in such a positive way. They have worked hard and clearly given their best!

The calendar on the back side of this newsletter should provide you with a look at the events in May to help with your planning. As always, feel free to call the Main Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for all you do to support your child! We feel privileged to share our days with all of them!

Jo-Anne Knapp
CEA Principal

Field Trips

Grade levels have planned terrific field trips in the coming weeks. Please help us with our planning by making sure that all permission slips are in on time and necessary medications are on file with our school nurse. We want these to be enjoyable trips for everyone!

Planning for next school year:

If you have information about your child that you feel would be helpful to us as we plan for next school year, please email or write Mrs. Knapp by May 6. Your thoughts regarding your child's needs are important as we work to create balanced classrooms that meet all students learning needs. We cannot promise to honor specific teacher requests.

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM:

CEA participates in Broome County's Ag in the classroom program. We have had several visits at all grade levels from our partners at Cornell Cooperative Extension and more are scheduled for May. Students love the learning around agricultural concepts connecting with the goals and standards of our district!

END-OF-THE-YEAR ASSESSMENTS

Classroom teachers are beginning to gather information on student achievement and growth at the end of this month. This will be important as we prepare final report cards and begin to plan for next school year. Regular attendance will be important for your child during this time.



Toys! Toys! Toys!

Spring tends to bring an increase in the number of students bringing toys in from home. This can create a distraction for them during instructional time and occasionally disagreements between friends. We encourage students to leave their toys and valuable belongings at home. This would include Pokeman and other collectable cards. Thank you for your help with this!


For Safety: Flip-flops should not be worn in school. All sandals should have a strap on the back to ensure they stay on your child's feet.

Summer Enrichment Program:

The deadline for interest in this summer's program was April 26. Information letters were sent home with students in early April. Families will be notified by letter in early June for participation. If you have any questions, please call our office at 692-8241.

May 2019 at CEA



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 - Day 2 NYS Math grd. 3	2 - Day 3 NYS Math grd. 3	3 - Day 4 Museum to you @ CEA (PK)	4
			8 - Day 1	9 - Day 2 Finch Hollow some grd. 1 Recycling Man grd. 3	10 - Day 3 Math and Memories in May 8:30-10:30am Student dismissal. 11:30am	11
			15 - Day 6	16 - Day 1	17 - Day 2	18
			22 - Day 5 Roberson grd. 3 Animal adventure PK	23	24	25
			29 - Day 1 Kinderville	30 - Day 2 Kinderville Cortland Theatre grd. 1	31 - Day 2 Kinderville Outstanding Student Game @ Rumble Ponies 7pm	
			7 - Day 6 Finch Hollow some grd. 1 PTA @ Mary Wilcox. 6pm Board of Ed. 7pm			
			14 - Day 5			
			21 - Day 4 School Budget Voting 1-8pm CEA Spring Festival. 6pm Board of Ed. 7pm			
			28 - Day 6 Kinderville Morning Program			
			5 - 6 - Day 5 Olweus class meetings Finch Hollow some grd. 1			
			13 - Day 4 Morning Program			
			20 - Day 3 Olweus class meetings			
			27 NO SCHOOL 			
			12			
			19			
			26			

Whitney Point Central School District Vision:
To become a community of excellence achieved through
HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

April 2019

C E ADAMS

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Big Adventures of Tiny House*

(Susan Schaefer Bernardo)

Tiny is a little house on a big journey. He travels across the country with his friend Big Truck, looking for a place to settle down. Along the way, he meets all kinds of houses and learns that home is anywhere, as long as you feel it in your heart.



■ *LOOK I'm a Scientist*

(DK Publishing)

Just like a scientist, your child can ask questions and use her five senses to make discoveries. The experiments in this book call for everyday materials and include easy-to-follow directions for creating bubbles, making slime, learning about sound, and more.



■ *Calendar Mysteries: January Joker*

(Ron Roy)

When seven-year-old Bradley Pinto's friends go missing, all the clues point to an alien abduction. But are those mysterious lights and footprints really caused by something from a UFO? Bradley will need to follow the clues to solve the mystery. Book One in the Calendar Mysteries series.

■ *Mapping Our World* (Sandy Phan)

This nonfiction book introduces your youngster to maps and globes. He'll begin by exploring map symbols and lines of longitude and latitude before moving on to fun facts about the seven continents. There's even an activity for inventing a new continent. (Also available in Spanish.)



Fluency: Bringing it all together

As your youngster learns to read, a main goal is for her to become fluent. Fluency happens when all the pieces click into place: recognizing many words instantly, reading smoothly and expressively, and understanding what she reads. Try these tips to help her read more fluently.

Build word recognition

The more words your child knows at first sight, the more fluently she'll read. Ask her teacher for a list of sight words (frequently used words), and play games with them. She could write them in a hopscotch grid to read as she hops. Or play cooperative "Scrabble." Place all the tiles faceup, and together, make a crossword of sight words.

Practice with familiar books

Fluent reading sounds like normal speech—not too fast or too slow, but just right. To practice, let your youngster read books she knows well. She won't need to stop to figure out words, so she'll

be free to read at a comfortable pace and focus on the meaning of the story. Also, ask a librarian for books with a refrain—the same phrase repeats on each page.

Use punctuation "clues"

Encourage your child to think of punctuation marks as clues for reading with expression. Commas and periods tell her to pause slightly. For quotation marks, she might change her voice to show a character is speaking. Have her listen to an audiobook and follow along in the print version, noticing how the narrator uses the punctuation. Then, she can read the book to you. ♥



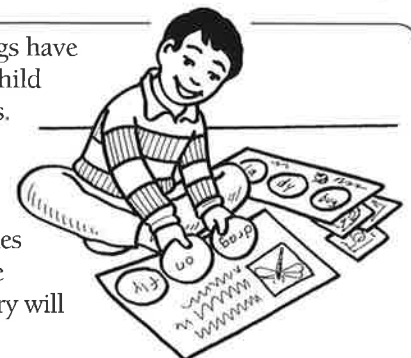
My sylla-bug book

Dragonfly, caterpillar, bumblebee... many bugs have long names. Making this cute book lets your child spell big words by breaking them into syllables.

1. Help your youngster list bug names (*grasshopper, ladybug, centipede*).

2. Let him trace around a soup can to make circles on colored paper and cut them out. He can write each syllable on a separate circle. *Tip:* A dictionary will show him how to break a word.

3. Mix them all up. Have your child glue the circles for each word back together onto separate sheets of paper. He could draw each bug and write about it. Now staple the pages into a book for him to read again and again. ♥



Writing: Start with a plan

Before your youngster writes, making a kid-friendly graphic organizer helps him plan what he'll say. And looking at his plan while he writes will remind him of facts or details to mention. Suggest these clever ideas.

Rays of sunshine. To plan a report or story, your child could draw a big sun. He can write a report topic ("Hamsters") in



the center and then a fact on each ray ("Sleeps all day," "Stuffs cheeks with food," "Runs on a wheel"). Or before he writes a story, he might put his main idea in a sun ("Visited relatives") and a major plot event on each ray ("Rode a train," "Played with cousins," "Went to a fair").

Rungs on a ladder. If your youngster needs to write instructions or explain a scientific process, have him draw a ladder with a rung for

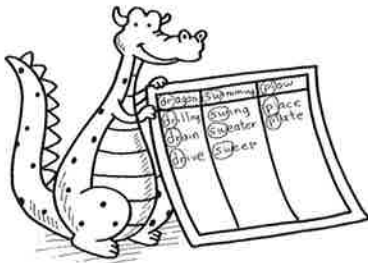
each step. "How to Pack a Suitcase" may include "Choose clothes," "Fold clothes," "Open suitcase," and "Put clothes inside." If he's describing how a seed becomes a plant, his rungs could say "Seed is planted," "Seed sprouts," "Leaves grow," and "Flowers bloom." Let him refer to his ladder to write a thorough explanation. ♥

Fun with Words

Spot the consonant combo



Here's a portable activity that will help your child learn consonant combinations like *bl* and *st*—an important part of sounding out words.



First, have her look through a book and choose words that start with two consonants (*dragon*, *twins*). Suggest that she draw columns on a sheet of paper, write one of the words at the top of each, and circle the beginning consonants.

Now let her take her paper when you go out. Together, try to spot words on signs that begin with the same combinations, and she can write them in the correct columns. Under *dragon*, she might write *drive*, *drilling*, and *drain*.

At home, help her read unfamiliar words. Then, she could count to see which combination she saw the most. ♥

Parent to Parent

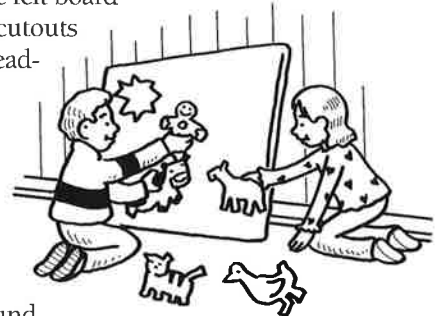
Make your own felt board

My son Antoine loves the felt board at school. The kids use felt cutouts to retell stories, which the teacher said boosts reading comprehension. So I decided to make a felt board for Antoine to play with at home.

I stapled felt to a big piece of cardboard. Then I gave my son smaller pieces of felt, and he used them to make the characters from *The Gingerbread Man*. He drew them with a marker, and I cut them out for him.

Antoine had fun moving the characters around on the board as he retold the story. I smiled when I heard him chanting, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

Now Antoine is eager to make more characters and retell other stories on his felt board. ♥



Q&A "Swap" to find new books

Q My daughter wants new books for her shelf, but we're on a tight budget. Any suggestions?

A Luckily, you don't need to spend money for your child to get new books.

Consider starting a book swap. Invite friends, relatives, and neighbors with older and younger children to gather at your home and trade books. Your daughter's outgrown books can be passed on to a

younger reader, and she could find ones that are just right for her now.

For another type of book swap, scout your area for Little Free Libraries. These cute mini-libraries let people exchange

books for free. Check littlefreelibrary.org, and click on "Map" to find ones near you. When your daughter takes a book, it's hers to keep. Just have her leave one in its place for someone else to enjoy! ♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

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