



Title I Parent Contact Newsletter

TITLE I MISSION STATEMENT

Through service and leadership, we will ensure fair and equal opportunities for school communities to attain a high quality education. March 2003

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Increase Parent Involvement

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Title I

Herbert Street Center
1290 Herbert Street
Port Orange, FL 32129

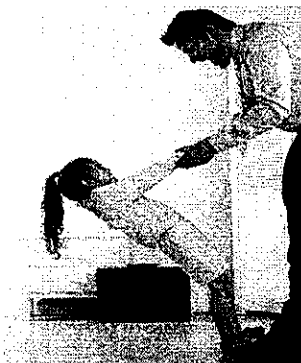
Volusia County School District
2011- 2012 Activities Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2011

7-Early Release
14-Early Release
21-Early Release
23-Student Holiday
28-Early Release

*A happy childhood in
one the best gifts that
parents have it in their
power to bestow.*

Mary Cholmondeley



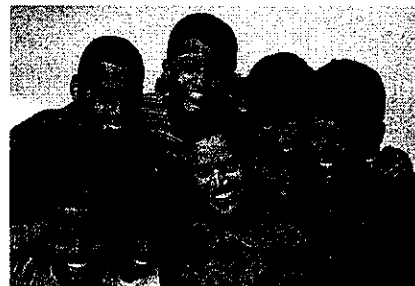
G. Olsen and M.L. Fuller, write that research has continually showed evidence of the positive effects of parent involvement on children, families, and the school community when schools and parents continuously support and encourage the children's learning and development. According to Eccles & Harold, 1993; the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is **not** income or social status but the extent to which that student's family is able to create a home environment that encourages learning.

The following is a summary of some ideas presented by *Samantha Cleaver*, contributing writer for *Education.com*. Presented is information for parent involvement in their children's education. Parents can explore with their child's teacher to find out what areas of support and involvement may be most beneficial to the student and the school community.

- **Be a Reading Buddy:** If you have time during the school day, offer to come in and read with students during a set time each week. As you read with each student, encourage them to problem solve mistakes and ask them questions to help them develop reading fluency and comprehension skills.
- **Lead a Book Club:** During one school year, Beth Kruger-Sanders, 6th grade teacher in Chicago, met with five families from her class in a monthly book club after school. The book club started with "Sahara Special", by Esme Codell, and continued with books chosen by participating parents and students. Reading books that the group chose was a way for parents to let their kids read more content in a safer setting. Parent engagement made the book club work.
- **Lead a Small Group:** During reading or math time, offer to work with small groups or individual students on specific reading and math goals such as learning sight words, spelling words or practicing math facts.
- **Sharpen Pencils:** Elementary school teachers can spend a lot of time sharpening pencils. Stop in once a week for 15 minutes after school to sharpen pencils to fill all those pencil boxes.
- **Help Around the Classroom:** Parents help file papers and organize report cards to go home. If you have time to spare during the week, you can help reorganize the classroom library, make copies, or wipe down desks, tables, and windows.
- **Restock the Supply Closet:** Around January, the supply closet that was fully stocked with Kleenex, baby wipes, and paper towels starts to go bare. Help restock the shelves with basics and ask what other supplies teachers might need for science fairs or art projects.
- **Lead a Small Group:** During reading or math time, offer to work with small groups or individual students on specific reading and math goals such as learning sight words, spelling words, or practicing math facts.

Increase Parent Involvement (cont.)

- **Be a Bulletin Board Buddy:** If your child's teacher has a hallway bulletin board or classroom bulletin board that needs to be changed to showcase new student's work or reinforce a new concept, offer to help put up new boards. Even better than volunteering your own bulletin board skills, ask your child if he or she wants to help design and put up a board.
- **Deliver a School Day Treat:** At the start or end of the year when it's hot outside, bring in cold juice boxes for students mid-afternoon. A cool treat, says Kruger-Sanders, is a big help and much better than sugary snacks.
- **Provide IT Support:** Just because students are Web savvy with Facebook pages and video games, it does not mean they are ready to use word processing and publishing programs. During writing, volunteer to monitor and help students write and edit their work.
- **Bring Your Set of Skills:** If you have a special set of skills, ask your child's teacher if you can be of service. For example, if you are a web developer, offer to help set up and manage a classroom site. If you have expertise doing home videos, offer to record and edit a classroom memories video.
- **Teach a Lesson:** If you have a skill that you use at work or for a hobby, consider bringing it into your child's classroom for a special presentation. If you work in a laboratory, for example, bring in a simple science experiment. Or, if you work at a newspaper, teach a writing lesson about article leads. Before you bring in your expertise, connect with your child's teacher to connect it with the curriculum.
- **Make Use of At-Home Time:** Ask your child's teacher if you can cut out words for a word wall or prepare materials for a project while you watch TV at night or over the weekend.
- **Record Your Favorite Stories:** Reading your child's favorite stories onto CDs or Mp3 files that can be used in the classroom listening center. Even better, have your child record books that she loved in previous years.



Important Dates

January 21 2012, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., FAMILY EXPO, DeLand High School

September 24, 2011– due date for schools' *Parent Involvement Plan* (PIP)