

Monthly Family Newsletter

November 2021

Be Thankful in November, National Native American Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. This is a time to showcase Native Americans significant achievements and the common history of tribal countries and other communities. Native American cultures share their history, customs, rituals and legends through storytelling. Storytelling is one way a family can practice literacy together, and ties into another observation this month, National Family Literacy Month.

Family Literacy Month encourages families to learn and read together. Literacy is not only knowing how to read but the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and process the material. Even if you aren't necessarily reading a book, creating a story still provides a literacy outlet. Storytelling allows people to get to know one another, it is a "two-way interaction" between the listener and the storyteller. Stories can also teach lessons just like the stories Native Americans shared with their families. Celebrate Native American Heritage Month and Family Literacy Month by reading their stories together as a family.

We wish you and your family a joyous holiday and hope you will join us in gratitude. Let us share the words of "Thanksgiving" with you in that spirit, and may it truly be a Thanksgiving for everyone.

HEADS UP!

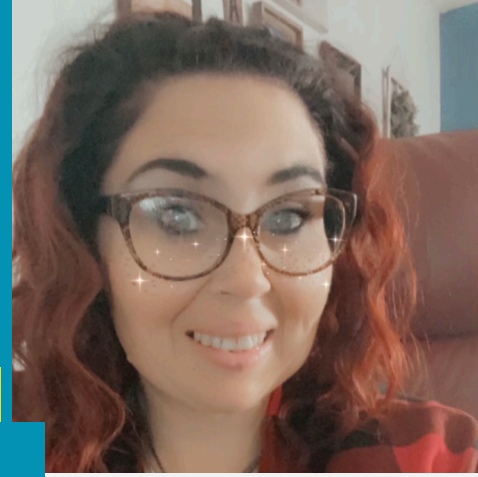
Your Family Engagement Advocate staff will reach out to you in this month to set up a time to complete the 2020-21 Cummings Great Expectations Family Interview. This data helps us understand you and your child's needs, figure out if our program is working, and identify what else we can do to keep improving our program. With each child survey you complete, you'll receive a \$25 dollar gift card to Kroger. Don't miss it, your support and participation are greatly appreciated! - American Institutes for Research (AIR)

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G-2200 Walton Ave, Flint, MI 48532 | 810-600-5461 | CummingsSchool.org

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Meet the Cummings Family!

KRYSTAL ALLIE

Krystal Allie is an Associate Teachers and has been working at Cummings for two years. She enjoys anything with leopard print and it gets extra stars if it is also pink. Ms. Krystal's favorite snacks are cucumbers and celery. Ms. Krystal really enjoys *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* which she reads nightly with her daughter. A cozy bedtime story goes perfectly with her favorite season, Fall. She focuses much of her time on schoolwork and watches her kids do their activities: baseball, basketball, cheer & dance. Ms. Krystal never seems to find enough time in the day, so if she could have any superpower she would want to have the gift of time.

"I love the atmosphere at Cummings, when I transferred from another building I immediately felt at home. Our staff is helpful and so friendly, our families are AMAZING and I love my students. If I am having a rough day when I walk in these doors that is lifted. Someone is always there to listen and give advice and then when my students walk through that door with a huge smile on their face, giving me the best hugs ever, I know that I am in the right place. What we have at Cummings is so special and I am truly thankful to be a part of this family."

From Our Executive Director

JA'NEL JAMERSON

Reading together as a family has an immense amount of benefits. It can assist in language development, enhances comprehension, and fosters the joy of reading. But, literacy is so much more! Research shows that when families read together, learning happens and memories are made that last a lifetime. Family literacy is about family members enhancing reading skills with things they do together. Family literacy should incorporate a variety of tools: books with words, picture books, storytelling, dramatic play and more. You can support family literacy at home by providing time, space, and a range of literacy activities for your family to experience.

Need some ideas? Try one of these:

- Visit your local library with your family.
- Play word-based board games
- Donate some books.
- Share the love and joy of reading.
- Write a note or poem.
- Talk about what you've read
- Read, read, and read some more

Family literacy is something we are observing this month, but be sure to keep these habits in mind all year.



Mark Your Calendars:



Important Dates

- **Beginning November 2nd: Virtual Dad's Café; Tuesday 9:30am, Thursday 6:30pm**
- **November 4th: Parent Café 9:30-11:00**
- **November 16: Market Order Pick Up**
- **November 23: Head Start Parent Policy Council 9:30-11:30**
Join Zoom Meeting
tinyurl.com/HeadStartParentPolicyCouncil
- **November 25th: No School Happy Thanksgiving**
- **November 26th: SCHOOL CLOSED**

From Our School Director

MICHELLE TOWNSEND

Thanksgiving is a special and beautiful Holiday. There are so many activities focused on family time and being grateful for what we have. Nothing is better than the spirit of gratitude, thankfulness, and tradition that permeated the air. Gather your absolute BEST Thanksgiving tradition and make this Thanksgiving extra special.

From Our Family Engagement Coordinator

MIKE KILDEE

In Native American culture, storytelling is the traditional way of documenting their history, culture, customs, rituals and legends. These amazing tales, often told by the tribal elders to the younger generations, not only explained their history, these stories were also entertaining and preserved their culture.

Each time a story was told, it would breathe new life into the culture and give meaning to the tribe's history. It also taught life lessons about things like love, leadership and honor.

We can all learn something from other cultures and the tradition of Native American storytelling can be a tradition that you can start with your own family. Storytelling is something that can be passed on from generation to generation to keep family history and culture alive.

Storytelling is a part of all cultures, and are shared as a means of education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values. My dad was an amazing storyteller and it is a family tradition that he has passed on to me. I am thankful for my dad passing this tradition on to me, and to our future generations.



Here are ten meaningful and fun family Thanksgiving traditions you can start this year:

- Volunteer or choose a community service project
- Personalize the table.
- Have a special breakfast.
- Go for a morning family walk.
- Give kids an important job they do each year.
- Have a table toast.
- Start a happiness jar.
- Play a thankful game
- Read bedtime stories
- Leave inspirational notes to each other



Scan this QR code to complete the health check survey each morning.



THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY!