

# Monthly Family Newsletter

March 2022

## MARCH IS READING MONTH!



It's Women's History Month and National Reading Month! This is the perfect time to read your favorite book by a woman author or books that celebrate women's achievements and contributions to society! Reading plays an important role in a student's success in school.

**Here are 10 interactive tips to encourage learning to read at home.**

**1. Use songs and nursery rhymes to build phonemic awareness.**

*The rhyme and rhythm help kids to hear sounds and syllables in words, which helps them learn to read.*

**2. Make simple word cards at home.** Make simple cards with a word containing 3 sounds on each and read the word together while holding up three fingers. This will help them build essential phonics and decoding skills.

**3. Engage your child in a print-rich environment.** Seeing printed words (posters, books, etc.) helps children to see and apply connections between sounds and letter symbols. When you're out and about, point out letters on posters, billboards and signs.

**4. Play word games at home or in the car.** Introducing simple word games regularly will encourage your child to listen, identify and manipulate the sounds in words.

**5. Understand the core skills involved in teaching kids to read.** It is important to involve the different skills that learning to read involves which include: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency.

**6. Play with letter magnets.** Prepare letter magnets on the fridge and pull the vowels to one side (a, e, i, o, u). To help them, say each vowel sound aloud while pointing at its letter, and ask your child which one makes a sound similar to the middle sound.

**7. Harness the power of technology to keep your child engaged.** Use technology at home as a way to explore new worlds, make believe and actively engage in fun and challenging activities.

**8. Read together daily and ask questions about the book.** Many skills can be picked up by children through the simple act of reading to a child.

**9. Play games to memorize high-frequency sight words everyday.** Learning to identify and read sight words is essential for young children to become fluent readers.

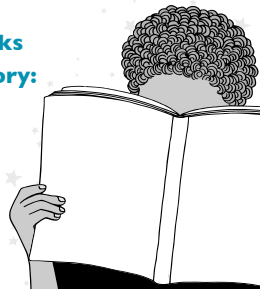
**10. Be patient.** The best way to teach kids to read is to make it fun!

## From Our Executive Director

JA'NEL JAMERSON

As we celebrate Women's History Month, an annual celebration of the contribution's women have had on American history, **here are some books to help educate the children in your life about women's history:**

- *I am Rosa Parks*
- *Brave Ballerina*
- *Little Leaders*
- *She Persisted & Voice of Freedom.*



## Meet the Cummings Family!

ELLIE JAMES

Ellie James has been a Classroom Support Teacher at Cummings for three years. She loves gardening, drawing and the color turquoise. Her favorite food is anything Italian and vegetables. Ellie loves to read anything by Charles Dickens and her favorite season is Spring. If she could have any superpower it would be able to answer prayers to make any problem go away.

**"At Cummings Great Expectations, my favorite thing is the staff, the families and the building as a whole. Cummings is one big family."**



## From Our Parent Navigator

KATY NUNN

As we transition into spring this month, many of us find ourselves thinking about the future and the warmer weather and sunny skies that are soon to come, but the month of March is also a time to reflect both on the past and present by celebrating women in history and reading! Take time to read about the many contributions of women in history and to also acknowledge the women of today who are making history. It is never too late to learn to advocate for what you believe in and take actionable steps to create changes that others may be reading about someday. Keep an eye out for our new Parent Ambassador cohort, as they begin to advocate for policies that will help all our families thrive.

**"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."**

**Michelle Obama**

CUMMINGS GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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## Mark Your Calendars: Important Dates



ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT EDUCARE FLINT



- **March 3rd:** Parent Café on Zoom 9:30 am
- **March 8th:** Great Expectations Market Curbside Pick-up
- **March 16th:** GISD Head Start Parent Policy Committee on Zoom: 9:00 AM
- **March 18th:** Student Half - Day
- **March 28th - April 1st:** NO SCHOOL; Spring Break

## From Our Family Engagement Coordinator

MIKE KILDEE

We all want to see our children grow and be successful in school and in life. Reading with our children is a very simple and enjoyable activity that has many benefits for your children.

- Reading will **boost your child's vocabulary** and make them better readers and writers as they get older.
- Reading together will **expand your child's view of the world** and help them develop empathy towards others.
- Reading also **builds confidence** which is so important for children in achieving whatever it is that they want to accomplish in life.

Make a plan to read with your child every day! The benefits of reading to you child now will stay with them for their entire life! Maya Angelou is a successful poet, author and civil right activist. Below are her word of inspiration.

*When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."*

**- Maya Angelou -**

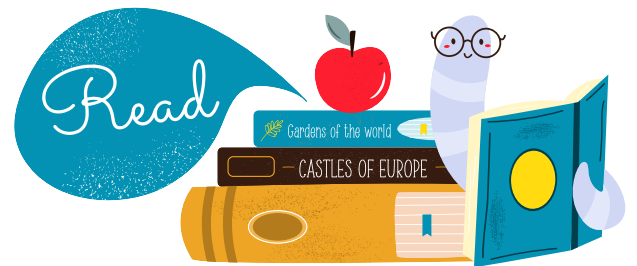


## From Our School Director

MICHELLE TOWNSEND

There are so many reasons why reading to your child is so important. Birth-5 years old, children are sponges that soak in practically everything in their environments. It's true! Even during story-time, their minds are at work, taking in all the language they hear and lessons the characters learn. Reading to your child at any age will boost their brain development, your bond, and so much more. Reading develops a child's imagination and creativity and is a great approach to support your child to dream! In addition, reading supports logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Your child is developing useful communication skills by observing the interactions between the characters in the books. It is also a great opportunity to spend quality time together and bond with your child. Many children, as they get older, have fond memories of times spent reading with their parents.

When you're reading, you sit in a silent location, relax your mind, and focus on whatever it is that you are reading. Your brain slows down, and you're normally calm. This comfortable state is similar to meditating, and through reading, your child will profit by acquiring the habit of relaxation. Schedule a time to read to your child every day, bedtime is always the best time and gives you both a set routine for years to come.



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



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