

The Houghton Connection

Houghton Elementary School ~ 8080 Elizabeth Lake Rd. ~ White Lake ~ MI ~ 48386

March 2019

A Message from our Principal

Dear Houghton Families,

March is Reading Month, and we are committed to reading more at Houghton. But did you ever consider that writing is another important component to supporting students in their growth as readers? At school we tie reading and writing together and know that when students jot or write about their reading, it helps with their comprehension. When students write, it also helps them with their phonemic awareness and vocabulary development. Writing is an important part of literacy development, so we try to emphasize reading and writing across all the content areas. Kids even write about math! Writing clarifies their thinking as they explain how processes work, make sense of numbers and how they use math to tackle everyday problems.

What can you do to continue to support your child as a fully literate person? Of course, read with them. Ensure that they take time at least 5 days a week to read and then talk to you about their reading. If you read together, that just makes reading more fun and valuable. This is why adult book clubs have taken the world by storm as people love having a common reading experience and savoring a good story together.

There are also ways to support your child as a writer that will impact their reading abilities.

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Upcoming Events

3/18	Good News Club		Good News Club
3/19	OC Hearing Screening—make up Google CS Girls Who Code	3/26	Talent Show Auditions READ IN Girls Who Code
3/20	Kindergarten ZOO trip	3/28	Fun Times with Ms. Grimes Scouts
3/21	Fun Times with Ms. Grimes Girl Scouts	3/29	Mystery Reader
3/22	Mystery Reader	4/1—5	Spring Break
3/25	Reading SPIRIT WEEK		



SHARPENING THE SAW
Balance Feels Best

SYNERGIZE
Together Is Better

**SEEK FIRST TO
UNDERSTAND, THEN TO
BE UNDERSTOOD**
Listen Before You Talk

THINK WIN-WIN
Everyone Can Win

**PUT FIRST THINGS
FIRST**
Work First, Then Play

**BEGIN WITH THE END
IN MIND**
Have a Plan

BE PROACTIVE
You're in Charge

Make sure you have the right tools in your home to support writing—paper, notecards, fun pencils and pens. Even saving papers that your child can simply write on the unused back side allows them to have a lot of writing opportunities.

Journal with your child. Journaling can be everything from recording the day's events, writing about books they're reading, or an ongoing conversation you have with your child. I know a parent who told me about her child writing about his conflicts with her. She would then thoughtfully respond to him in writing. She told how this improved their relationship because they were able to resolve conflicts peacefully.

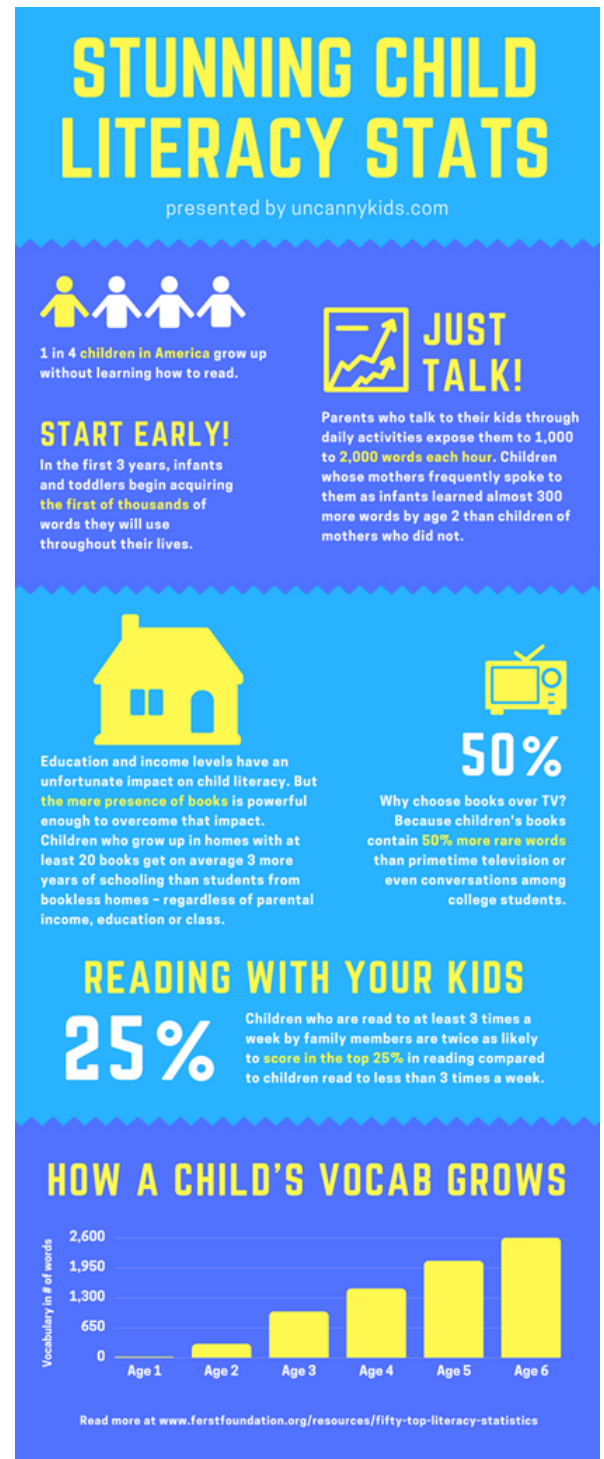
Write snail mail. I have a friend who is seriously sick with cancer right now in Colorado. I bought a post card book and am sending her several postcards each week to encourage her to keep fighting. Who do you know in need of a note of encouragement? Your child will develop not just as a literate person but also as a person with empathy and care for others.

Give your child a special space for writing. You may have a desk available that your child can use or a special spot at a table. If not, consider a lap desk or just a special container with their writing tools that they can take to a special corner in your home. It doesn't have to be expensive or fancy, just inspirational. I am always amazed how much students love Mrs. C's yoga mats in her classroom for reading and writing. She actually cuts the mats in half and students use them to define their space.

Let's all get creative and look around to see what we might offer to inspire our students to read and write more!

Sincerely,

Valerie Grimes



Fast Fact

TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROVIDES ANNUAL RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS IN THE WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT.



wsdmi.org/wfpe

READING MONTH—SPIRIT WEEK

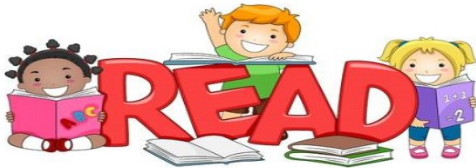
Monday, 3/25—Wear Hat with Words

Tuesday, 3/26—Bring Stuffed Animal to Read
With

Wednesday, 3/27—Dress Like Favorite Book
Character

Thursday, 3/28—Wear Shirt with Words

Friday, 3/29—Wear your Pajamas



The Leader in Me

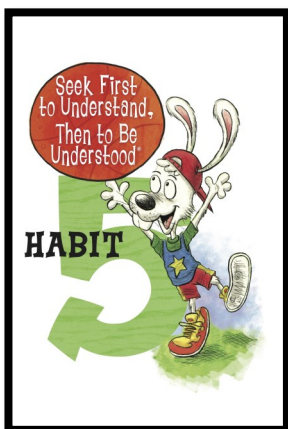
FAMILY NEWSLETTER

By Dr. John and Jane Covey



"Leadership is communicating people's worth and potential so clearly that they are inspired to see it in themselves."

--- Dr. Stephen R. Covey



**"We have but two ears and one mouth so that we may
listen twice as much as we speak."**

Thomas Edison

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

Too often instead of really listening, we are busy forming our response in our mind. This Habit is about not just hearing with our ears, but looking at body language with our eyes, and using our hearts as well. We listen to understand who that person is, how they feel about something, and how they view the world.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

We are happy to announce that we have four teams from Waterford qualifying to participate in the Michigan DI State Tournament, which is held in April on the campus of Michigan State University. Those teams, and their volunteer managers, are:

- 1st place, HS improv challenge - Kettering/Mott HS, team manager Jeremy Kempken
- 1st place, MS fine arts challenge - Pierce team, team manager Jeremy Kempken
- 3rd place, MS engineering challenge - Pierce team, team manager Tamatha Haynes
- 4th place, EL scientific challenge - Grayson team, team manager Laura Gearhart

Additional teams performing on Saturday were an EL fine arts team from Beaumont managed by Dave Reimus, and two Rising Stars (lower elem) teams from Houghton (manager Boni Thornsbery) and Grayson (manager Amanda Kellar). Congratulations on a job well done!

Many thanks to the staff of Mott HS for opening their classrooms to our tournament. We appreciate the support, especially of Jason Guilds and the custodial crew at Mott; it takes a team effort to host such a large event.

We are fortunate to have many WSD staff volunteering their time - thank you to our amazing teachers, clerical staff, librarians, parents and alumni for helping make the day run smoothly. Thank you to Eric Amat from Mott for being our building manager and "go-to" guy!



Houghton's 2019 Talent Show

The Talent Show will be **FRIDAY, MAY 3, 6:30 PM AT HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY**. This flyer contains the important details you will need to know about the show. Please read carefully, mark your calendars and start working on your acts!

Auditions— Tuesday, March 26 (MANDATORY)

- Auditions will take place at HOUGHTON in the Spanish room
- K-3 grades will meet 5:30-6:30
- 4-5 grades will meet 6:30-7:30
- All acts **MUST** have at least one parent chaperone to supervise them during the audition
- **MUSIC MUST BE FINALIZED AND BROUGHT WITH YOU.** We will need your music copied on a CD (your song only) and a printed copy of the lyrics for approval
- **If you are unable to copy your music to a disc, you must:**
 - email bethdannewitz@yahoo.com by 03/25 at 8PM with the name of your song, the artist and the song **MUST** be available for download on itunes
 - bring a \$3 download fee to your audition

WE CANNOT DOWNLOAD ANY MUSIC THE NIGHT OF AUDITIONS

Dress Rehearsal – Tuesday, April 30 (MANDATORY)

Community Rewards

Amazon Smile

All eligible purchases made through smile.amazon.com will have a percentage of the purchase price donated to Houghton Elementary PTA.

How to register:

- Go to smile.amazon.com.
- Sign into your Amazon account, or create one. It should prompt you to select your charity.
- Type "Douglass Houghton Elementary PTA" in the search bar.
- Confirm your selection of "Douglass Houghton Elementary PTA."

That's it! You are now signed up for AmazonSmile!

Please make sure that you are logged into AmazonSmile (not Amazon.com) when you are making purchases. Thank you for your support!

Kroger Community Rewards

Shop at Kroger, using a **registered** Kroger Card and Houghton Elementary PTA will receive a percentage of your purchases!

Make sure you have your Kroger Card handy, if you do not have one you can get one at any Kroger service desk.

How to register:

- Go to Kroger.com/communityrewards
- Sign in to your existing Kroger account or create a new account.
- Click 'view your rewards details.'
- Scroll down to Community Rewards and click 'edit.'
- Type 'Douglass Houghton PTA' in the search box.
- Click on your selection and click 'enroll.'

You have now registered Houghton PTA as your charity! Remember to use your Kroger Card each time you shop at Kroger.

If you have any questions please contact Jessica Pumfrey at JPumfrey8@gmail.com