

Cowan Road Elementary Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

March 2021

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

Increasing your student's vocabulary is important at any age. Since learning depends on good speech, reading, writing and communication skills, improving your student's vocabulary can improve school performance in every subject. Please read this month's newsletter to find vocabulary tips to help you and your students at home.

As always, please feel free to contact us any time if you need support or information on how to improve your child's academic performance in school. You can reach us at 770-229-3790 or allison.baker@gscs.org or angela.roth@gscs.org.

Estimados padres:

Este es un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo. Si ustedes necesitan que traduzcamos esta información, por favor, llamen a Lisa Bates al 770-229-3710 ext.10327.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR- IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

3/4/2021 "Popcorn for Progress" Stakeholder Meetings at 10:00 am or 1:00 pm
Location: Google Meet
Register: <http://bit.ly/39GHQOR>

3/23/2021 Report cards sent home

Stakeholder Meeting

All parents are invited to attend and participate. The purpose of the meeting is to provide input on the School Comprehensive Needs Assessment and to revise the School Improvement Plan.

Did You Miss...?

In February, all parents were invited to attend and participate in the "Share the Vision" Stakeholder Meetings.

Stakeholders were given an opportunity to review and revise the School-Parent Compact and the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. We also asked for feedback on the reservation of funds and building staff capacity.

If you missed the stakeholder meeting and would like more information, you may watch a video clip at <https://bit.ly/COESResources>.

You may provide your feedback at <https://bit.ly/37Nnt09> or contact Allison Baker or Angela Roth at 770-229-3790 or at allison.baker@gscs.org or angela.both@gscs.org.



Spring Parent Survey

We need your input!!!

Please take a few minutes to take the spring parent survey. The survey will help us know how to meet the interests and needs of your family more effectively.

English:

<https://tinyurl.com/springparentsurveyE2020-2021>

Spanish:

<https://tinyurl.com/springparentsurveyS2020-2021>

Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan Parent Feedback!

A Comprehensive Needs Assessment is the first step in developing an improvement plan. It is a process that collects and analyzes data to determine strengths and weaknesses. A School Improvement Plan is a road map that sets out the changes a school needs to make to improve student achievement. School specific goals are determined based on data with action steps for improvement.

We value your input. Please take a few minutes to review the 2020-2021 Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan at <https://bit.ly/COESResources>. After reviewing, please visit <https://bit.ly/37Nnt09> to provide your input. If you have questions about the plan, contact Dr. Holly Harvil at 770-229-3790 or at holly.harvil@gscs.org.

Tips for Parents of Special Education Students

- Organize all paperwork

In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork and documentation to maintain. Keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings and conferences.

- Review your child's current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

The IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program so it is important that you have a clear understanding of the plan. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

- Attend school events virtually

Take advantage of all parent engagement events and resources offered to help promote academic achievement at home.

Literacy Tips for Parents of a Middle School Student

- Read. Read. Read. The most important method of improving reading skills is to encourage reading of all kinds. Read the back of the cereal box, the newspaper or billboards.
- Visit places in-person or virtually where reading is featured including the library, museums or bookstores.
- Talk to your child about what he is reading or learning (how he is doing in it but also the actual content). Have your child summarize or paraphrase what they are reading.
- Read the same books your child is reading. Then talk to them about the book. Ask why and how questions not just factual questions.



Eight Ways to Improve Your Child's Vocabulary

- Pay more attention to your child's vocabulary
- Make conversation a priority
- Read together
- Play word games
- Write for pleasure
- Introduce a new word each day



GSCS HOSTS

K-5 Lights Out Virtual Family Game Night

March 4, 2021 @ 6 PM

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**REGISTER: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/GSCSBIGREAD](https://tinyurl.com/gscsbigread)
REGISTER BY 2/18/21 TO RECEIVE A FAMILY SNACK PACK**

WILL YOUR FAMILY WIN THE
ULTIMATE PRIZE?



**March 30, 2021
6 p.m.
Google Meet**

**Student
Literacy & Arts
Showcase**

Families, come learn how to help teenagers improve their literacy skills.

Also, explore writings, art, music, & theatrical performances created by GSCS students based on the novel Station Eleven.

RSVP on tinyurl.com/bigreadfamily

#NEABigRead #GriffinSpalding



If you would like to have a paper copy of this newsletter, please contact us at 770-229-3790 or allison.baker@gscs.org angela.roth@gscs.org.