

Reading News

From Your Reading Coach
Wretha Webb, Altha School

Altha School Reading News

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Students Are Working Hard on FCAT and Stanford

Thanks to all the students who are putting their best effort into FCAT testing. Thanks to all the parents who encourage their children, put them to bed on time, make sure they have had a good breakfast, etc. WE NEED YOU! I can't wait to see our reading scores from this FCAT. Both teachers and students have worked so hard; I just know they're going to be great!

FCAT Celebrations Were a Big Hit!

On Friday, March 7, our whole school celebrated last year's "A School" Award. All students participated in games, food, and fun. Congratulations, Altha School! Let's do it again this year!

A+

On Monday, March 10, all students who made gains or made a 3, 4, or 5 on last year's FCAT math and reading were treated to pizza, chips, cokes, and free time on the baseball field. I know Mr. Hand and Mrs. Kelley, along with all the other faculty and staff are hoping ALL students will be on this special list next time.



Reading Assessments "What and When":

DIBELS All K-5th

FORF All students in 6th-8th

FORF Level 1 and 2 students in grades 9th-12th

Gates-MacGinitie– Level 1 and 2 Students in 4th-12th

TOWRE– Level 1 and 2 students in grades 4th-12th

Thinklinks Reading – All grades 3rd-10th & level 1 and 2 students in grades 11th & 12th

The above tests have been completed for the Winter assessment. We will assess students learning again in April/May with these same assessments. The tests are required for progress monitoring which the state of Florida mandates for each school. The scores are reported at the school level, the district level, and at the state level.

Most importantly, these assessments are used to inform teachers of which skills students still lack in order to be successful in school and life, now and later. This information allows teachers to plan their instruction to meet the reading needs of all students. For more information, see Wretha Webb.

Reading Strategy of the Month

Get lost in a favorite book! Studies have shown that the more we read, the more our vocabulary and background knowledge will grow. Most of the vocabulary we gain is from reading. Comprehension requires vocabulary and background knowledge....so get lost in your favorite book and GROW! The sky's the limit!



ALSC Announces Exceptional Web Sites for Children *(from FOR-PD's Newsletter)*

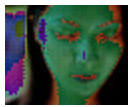


The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the [American Library Association](http://www.ala.org), is pleased to announce the Web sites added in 2006 to Great Web Sites for Kids (www.ala.org/greatsites).

Its Web resource contains hundreds of links to commendable Web sites for children, featuring links to valuable Web sites of interest to children, organized by subject headings such as animals; literature and languages; sciences; the arts; and history and biography. The Great Web Sites for Kids Committee maintains and updates the site.

www.ala.org/greatsites

Teachers!



Teacher Professional Development Opportunities

Professional Development is available to you...no matter your needs. See Mrs. Webb for further information or to schedule a professional development activity tailor made for you.

Third Grade Parents

For critical information for parents of third graders, concerning FCAT and retention, go to the following website:

http://www.justreadflorida.com/docs/Read_to_Learn.pdf

What is Dyslexia?

What is Dyslexia? To find out more, go to the following website and read a short technical paper on dyslexia by Florida Center for Reading Research's Dr. Joe Torgeson:

http://www.fcrr.org/TechnicalReports/Dyslexia_Technical_Assistance_Paper-Final.pdf

What is the Reading Coach Reading Right Now?

I caught reading teacher, Mrs. Gwen Proper, with the book: *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and "snatched" it. I'm halfway through, and I'm enjoying it very much. The book is full of "can't wait to turn the page" adventures with the main character, 12 year old Percy Jackson. I understand it's "book one" of an exciting series with this same character. What fun!

*Age appropriate:
Grade 6 and up.*



Resources

There have been many changes in educational landscape with regard to gender. Once, men outnumbered women on college campuses across the nation but now only make up about 44% of students. Boys that are ages 5-12 are 60% more likely to repeat a grade level and are 33% more likely to drop out of high school. That is not to say that girls do not also have their own gender issues including gender stereotypes and academic concerns regarding subject matter and retention.

As a way to support all learners, it is suggested that teachers:

- identify patterns in their own reading choices and those made for students by others
- address students' thoughts and ideas about reading and how they think of themselves as readers
- recognize the many kinds of reading and literacies
- create a classroom library that has a selection of books that entices both boys and girls
- evaluate texts systematically and teach your students how to do the same

The following resources will provide you with ideas and strategies to use with your students in order to increase their love and interest in reading and literacy.

Reading, Writing, and Gender Instructional Strategies and Classroom Activities that Work for Boys and Girls

Goldberg and Roswell offers specific strategies for assisting both genders in literacy development.

Guys Read

<http://www.guysread.com/>

Offers a list of books recommended by the webmaster, children's author Jon Scieszka, and others suggested by visitors to the website.

Best Riot Grrrrl Reads

<http://tln.lib.mi.us/~amutch/jen/riot.htm>

Okay, you've graduated past teen romances and Anne of Green Gables is so over with! So what's next? How about some books that show girls standing up for themselves, kicking butt, and taking no prisoners? It's time to take back the power with these girls-rule reads!

Boys Read: Considering Courage in Novels

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=997

The novels and activities in this lesson encourage boys to examine the notion of courage and how courage can be demonstrated in everyday actions.

Boys Will Be...The Unique Reading and Development Needs of Boys in Libraries

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/forlibrarians/serviceboys/boybooks.htm>

Favorite titles for boys of all ages, interests, and reading levels.

Books for Boys

<http://www.lfpl.org/teenpages/booklists/boys.htm>

Looking for books a young adult male would enjoy? Try these.

Boy Meet Books

<http://tln.lib.mi.us/~amutch/jen/boys.htm>

Check out this site for some great reads for young adult books.

Boys, girls and literacy

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Database/boys/index.html>

A website with a range of viewpoints on boys' attitudes to reading as well as girls' attitudes.

Beyond the Image: Adolescent Girls, Reading, and Social Reality

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/nwsa_journal/v012/12.1hubler.html

Angela E. Hubler discusses how the feminist criticism of fiction for young readers must move beyond a focus on images to examine the way in which fiction allows readers to map social structure.

Boys and Literacy K-6

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/yrk12focusareas/gendered/boyslitk6.php>

This site offers ideas for a place to go where schools and parents can work together from a common understanding about the gender issues involved in literacy.

Me Read? No, Way! A Practical Guide to Improving Boys' Literacy Skills

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/meread/meread.pdf>

A practical guide to improving boys' literacy skills.

If Your Boy Won't Read

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1543>

Suggestions for a boy who won't read. Parental modeling is still best.