

Title I Newsletter

April 2008

Ida Elementary, 3145 Prairie St. Ida, Mi. 48140

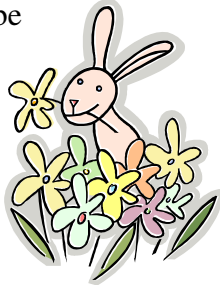
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April showers will bring May flowers!

During April, spring fever sets in and everyone is ready for some warmer weather. Make the best of it and spend some quality time outdoors with your children!

Here's what we have been studying in class:

K- The Kindergartners will be learning to read short word family books such as "My Cat" from the "_at" family; and "Ben" from the "_en" family. We have been practicing color words and had fun with word family puzzles.



1st- The first graders are still learning about long vowels and now have started to learn about R-controlled vowels such as "_ar, _or and _er". We still play sight word and phonic games every Friday for "Fun Friday". The **Math group** is learning about place value, time and money concepts.

2nd- The second graders have finished studying nouns and now are focusing on verbs (past and present tense, and irregular verbs). For April, we will start to learn about the subject and predicate of sentences. We will also practice their vocabulary words from the language arts curriculum. Second grade also gets to play games on "Fun Friday". The **Math groups** are reviewing subtraction with re-grouping, fractions, and skip counting (e.g. count by 3's)

3rd- Third and Fourth graders are continuing to read short stories for strengthening fluency. We are continuing to learn about parts of speech such as nouns, verbs and adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns. Writing is still a big concern as we come closer to the end of the year. The **Math groups** are working on elapsed time, easy algebra, multiplication facts, and data and probability concepts.

Motivate Readers With Irresistible Fun

When children resist reading books, it helps to use creative encouragement. For example, one teacher left clues around the school related to what the class was reading. The students read each one, which led to an exciting final discovery.

You can do the same thing at home. Read your child's assignment with him. Then make up games related to the plot. For example, hide written clues that direct him to more hints. ("Then Joey went to his secret hideout, a room that was painted blue!") The trail should end at a reward such as a treat or prize that is mentioned in the book.



Books Help During Rough Times

When your child faces a challenge, such as an unfriendly classmate or new sport, books can help. Look for stories to learn from. Read them together and help your child:

1. **Identify** with a character in the book. What feelings or experiences do they share?
2. **Understand** what the character is going through. Your child can release his feelings in a safe environment with you.
3. **Realize** that he isn't alone. Other people have similar problems. Discuss ideas the book may inspire.



Measure Reading Level Early

"Is this book the right level for my child?" you should I help him with it?" Here's how to figure it out:

- If your child can read almost all of the words, you don't need to help much.
- If he struggles a little, sit with him while he reads.
- If your child can read fewer than nine out of 10 words, help him find an easier book.

