

Parent Literacy Night Brings Parents and Teachers Together!

Parents came in uniform, straight from work and school to learn about topics in literacy that are crucial to their children's success. At our 2nd annual Parent Literacy Night, parents interacted with teachers at stations and had opportunities to ask questions and get clarification and experience some of what their children experience at school.

Our primary stations ranged from teaching parents early/pre-reading strategies and games and stations to the ability to hold writing samples and books appropriate for where our Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade students should be reading/writing now and at the end of the year. Parents walked away with a new understanding of what it looks like to be on grade level and even had the opportunity to put together the same bright, colorful retelling strips we use at school to use with their kids at home! Teachers helped parents understand the benefits of oral storytelling and provided some examples of how to weave it into their family life, while other teachers explained the equally important benefits of utilizing powerful characters in books as mentors for positive behavior. Parents also had an opportunity to spend time with one of our teachers talking about how to support kids writing at home and how to encourage writers, big and little alike!

At the upper grade stations, teachers answered questions about the kinds of thinking skills students need to demonstrate on the upper grade DRA. Parents were able to learn about how teachers help students set precise and actionable goals in reading and writing and how to motivate students to own the effort involved in increasing the level of their achievement. Even more exciting, we shared our interest in 21st Century learning with parents and our ideas to encourage wonder and inquiry at home. At the Battle of the Books table, we shared our booklist for this year's competition and shared books for browsing so parents can encourage their 5th and 6th grade students to read, read, read and participate in the competition this spring. Lastly, parents were able to practice a few questions on a 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade SOL if they were interested and play around with myOn and Tumblebooks. Some parents were VERY surprised by those SOL questions and felt they gained a new appreciation for the expectations their children face!

Perhaps the most gratifying part of the night was watching our Parent Liaison, Maria Mateus, lead nearly 25 Spanish-speaking parents from station to station, translating and answering questions. Parents even got to take home ideas for helping their young children learn to blend words together in Spanish, play a Memory game with rhyming Spanish words and then experience an amazingly entertaining read aloud in Spanish. Parents in this session learned how to really grab the attention of their children with the excitement and energy in their voice and lay a foundation of literacy in their homes. Additionally, nearly 20 parents who stayed to the end received 1st grade books written in Spanish to read to or with young children in their houses. Most of the group even enrolled in a new intensive, 12 week, English Language class Freedom Hill will be offering this winter.

All materials from the evening can be found at the FHES website: <http://www.fcps.edu/FreedomHillES/> all questions will be answered by Mrs. Rossman, FHES Reading Specialist, Melissa.Rossman@fcps.edu.

Please thank Mrs. Young, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Hill, Mrs. Smith (Special Education), Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Smith (Kindergarten), Ms. Brosnan, Ms. Dodd, Mrs. Roach, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Buggio, Ms. Petruzzellis, Mrs. Mateus, Mrs. Lopez-Nickson and Mrs. Izquierdo for sharing their time and expertise with our families. Their participation (along with a few 6-7th grade students) made the night a success!





