



Car Wash

to benefit

**The 6th Grade
Class of 2016**

Date: Saturday, June 6th, 2015

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

Location: General Nash Elementary School

*Stop to have your car washed by our students.
Food and drinks will be available to purchase.
All donations benefit the Class of 2016 !*



Attention Current 5th Grade Parents: A sign-up genius will be sent shortly with further information & volunteer opportunities for this event. Thank you in advance for all your support of the Class of 2016! Christine DiPippo

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2015

General Nash Elementary School

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Tim and the Iceberg*

(Paul Coates)

A little boy and his grandfather use their imaginations to stay cool on a hot day at the beach. Grandpa tells Tim stories, and then Tim sets off on a pretend trip to the North Pole to bring back an iceberg.



■ *Just One Bite* (Lola Schaefer)

Your youngster will learn about the eating habits of 11 animals in this nonfiction book. There's the whale that gulps down an entire giant squid and the butterfly that swallows just three drops of nectar. Each animal and its food are drawn to scale so your child can see exactly how much it eats in one bite.



■ *Moses Goes to a Concert*

(Isaac Millman)

Moses and his classmates are excited to go on a field trip to a concert. The students, who are all deaf, are surprised to find out the orchestra's percussionist is deaf, too. Includes conversations in sign language and a page showing the hand alphabet.

■ *A Different Princess: Knight Princess* (Amy Potter)

Amy thinks she's not your average princess. In fact, she tells her pet unicorn she's a brave knight princess—"cooler than Cinderella." Amy's mission is to rescue a little prince from a dragon, but she ends up rescuing the dragon instead. Part of the series *A Different Princess*. (Also available in Spanish.)



Summertime is story time

Make summer reading a family affair with regular read-alouds. Here are simple suggestions to help your child get the most out of the books you read together.

Your turn, my turn

Take turns picking books so your youngster gets a say. When it's your turn to choose, mix up fiction and nonfiction, including graphic novels, biographies, poetry, how-to books, historical fiction, and mysteries. You'll introduce him to many kinds of books that he'll read in school—and he may find a new favorite genre.

A two-way street

Inspire your child to really get involved in story time. For instance, let him set the pace. He may want to stop and point out a cute animal in an illustration or have you reread a funny part. Or maybe he'd like to read the main character's dialogue.

Q&As

Read-alouds give your youngster a chance to hear harder books than he can



read on his own. Encourage him to ask you if he doesn't know what a word means or can't understand what's happening. Ask him questions, too. ("Do you know what an ocelot is?" "What did you think of the ending?")

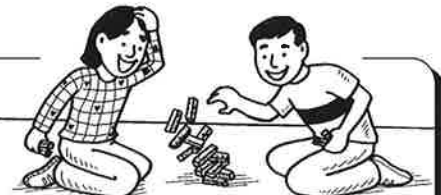
Guest readers

If you visit relatives, or they visit you, invite them to read to your child. It's good for him to hear different reading voices and styles. Maybe you can even go to a nearby library together, and they could show your youngster books they enjoyed when they were little.♥

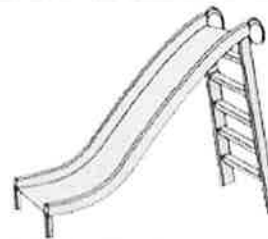
Fine-motor games

Let your youngster work on fine-motor skills this summer for better handwriting in the fall. Play these games together:

- This homemade version of Jenga can improve your child's hand-eye coordination. Cut four sponges into four strips each. Take turns stacking the pieces to build a tower. Keep going until one player's piece knocks over the tower—then start again.
- Strengthen your youngster's pencil grip with this idea. Give each player a clean, empty squirt bottle (for example, a mustard or ketchup bottle) and a cotton ball. Pick a starting line and a finish line. Squeeze your containers to blow air on your cotton balls, "racing" to move the balls from start to finish.♥



Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

1 Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.

2 Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.

3 Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.

4 Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.

5 Read with your child --explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.

6 Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.

7 Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the "8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities" on the Make, Take & Teach blog.

8 If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.



For more teaching ideas and activities be sure to visit our blog! www.blog.maketaketeach.com

Looking for a gift for a therapist, piano teacher or dance instructor?

Or maybe a Mother's Day gift?

**Yankee Candle Fundraiser
STILL AVAILABLE ONLINE**

UNTIL JUNE 30, 2015



www.yankeecandlefundraising.com

Group #: 990076633

This is a great fundraiser for our school – 40% of all sales go to General Nash

All orders over \$100 ship free and all orders are delivered fast!

Please help Home & School continue to fund the fun and educational activities your kids enjoy such as: assemblies, field trips, Reading Olympics, Literacy Night and the Geography Bee.

Any questions, please contact Sue Zima at susanzima@zoho.com



The Count to 1 Million Is On!

Which Grade Can Collect the Most?

Where to Deliver?

You can drop off your tabs in the school lobby - just look for the Home & School bin marked "tabs."

Please put the tabs in a **ziplock bag** and label with your child's **grade**.

**PULL ONE FOR CHARITY IN THE
NASH CHALLENGE
COLLECT 1 MILLION ALUMINUM TABS
BEFORE JUNE 2015!**

Any questions contact Jen Jezyk (jenjezyk@hotmail.com), Tanya MacGregor (gtnac2001@verizon.net), or Lise Gawinski (eliseharrigan@aol.com)