

May 21, 2008

Kenneth Hall News

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**Kenneth Hall
Elementary**

**Principal
Mike Callahan**

**Main Office
763-786-5572**

**Kids Club
763-785-5538**

**Transportation
763-785-5512**

**Food Service
763-785-5529**

**District Office
763-786-5570**

**Health Care Office
763-785-5504**

Dates to Remember

**Fri., May 23
Mrs. Noyes and
Mrs. Pap Classes
walk to Able Park
12:15**

**Mon., May 26
Memorial Day
NO SCHOOL**

**Tues., May 27
3rd grade to WWI
in the afternoon for
Move-up Day**

**Wed., May 28
1st Grade to
Como Zoo**

**Fri, May 30
1st and 2nd Grade
Track and Field
Day**

Principal Points by Mike Callahan

Summer is right around the corner and the kids will be on the lose. I'm sure many of you have already planned many activities and some exciting family trips. Children need the summer to unwind and to just be kids! On the other hand, the educator in me comes out every year at this time too.

Therefore it's a great time for me to promote informal learning during summer vacation days. Studies show that many students suffer from what is called summer drop off and when they return to school in September, they have forgotten many of the things they worked so hard to learn the previous school year. It's not hard to see why. Athletes and musicians who don't practice can't play well as those who keep their skills sharp. Neither can students.

Therefore the following K-3 literacy advice for families can be utilized to support continued growth through the summer.

Tips for early readers

- Point out print in the child's environment: on cereal boxes, food labels, toys, restaurants, and traffic signs.

- Sing songs, say short poems or nursery rhymes, and play rhyming word games with your child.

- Encourage your child to read (or pretend read) to you. Make this reading enjoyable. Do not worry if your child does not read all of the words correctly, but rather, applaud your child's effort to read.

- Go to the library together.

- Have books, magazines, and newspapers around the house. Let your child see you reading.

Encourage your child to write messages such as grocery lists, to-do lists, postcards, or short messages to family members or friends. Do not worry about conventional spelling at this point but, rather, encourage your child's first efforts at authorship.

Tips for more advanced readers

- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading. Ask open-ended questions such as "What do you think about that story?" "What would you have done if you were that character?"

- Read to your child regularly, even after your child is able to read some books independently.

- Listen to your child read. Use strategies to help your child with tricky words. For example, when your child comes to an unfamiliar word, you might say, "Skip it and read to the end of the sentence. Now try again - what makes sense and looks like the word that you see?"

- Praise your child's efforts at reading.

- Play vocabulary word games such as thinking of different words to describe the same things.

Set reasonable limits for television viewing.

Literacy Advice Source: May Reading Teacher



School is out one day early this June (The last day is Wednesday, June 4) - but the school district's Kids Club program has you covered! If you have a child who needs a place to be Thursday, students in K-8 are invited to participate in our child care options for Thursday, June 5. Come explore World Environment Day. All programming will take place at Woodcrest Elementary in the Early Childhood Wing. Call the Community Education office for more information at 786-1338.