

K-2 Neighborhood News



Hevel Elementary-A Neighborhood of Friends

"Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow"



March 2016
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Thank you, parents, for your help with our Valentine's Day Celebrations. We appreciate all you do!



Thank you for your help and support with our 100th Day celebration as well. The children looked adorable and "very old" in their elderly attire! The kindergartners were excited to parade in their 100th day capes! We had a great day of activities to celebrate becoming 100 days smarter! Thank you!

Won't you make reading a priority this month? Try turning off the TV, video games and computer for a half hour/hour each evening. Children who are read to, become good readers! It's that simple!

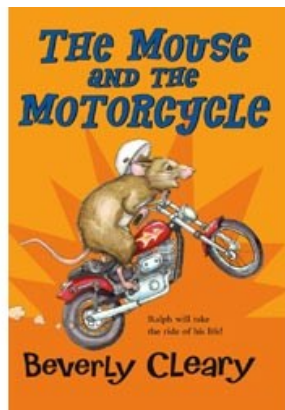
Children who own books and are read to have more success in school and in life. A student who:

- Reads for 20 minutes each day scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests and reads 1,800,000 words per year.
- Reads for 5 minutes each day scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests and reads 282,000 words per year.
- Reads for 1 minute each day scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests and reads 8,000 words per year.

Want to be a better reader? Simply READ!

March is Reading Month

We are excited to celebrate "March is Reading Month" in a new way. Each family will receive a book, The Mouse and the Motorcycle, to read together, as a family activity.



This engaging story is about a young mouse, Ralph, and his family who live in a motel. A new human tenant arrives with a little toy motorcycle that's just the right size for a mouse! The book about this unlikely friendship between a mouse and a boy is humorous and will be fun for the whole family.

Students will have opportunities to receive a raffle ticket for correctly answering the "secret question" after each chapter. Please read and follow the schedule of chapter/dates so children are prepared for each quiz. Each week, a student will win the raffle and be awarded a gift card.



Factoid

Children must learn **3,000-4,000 new words** each year to read on grade level. The only way to learn that many words (and more) is to **practice** reading, just as you practice sports skills and video games to advance to the next level.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Spring conferences will be held on the evening of **March 16th**. Conferences will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis. As partners in your child's journey through Hevel Elementary, we appreciate the time and effort you put into your child's education.

What Did You Do At School Today?



Did you know that most children say "nothing" when asked what he or she did at school? Try asking these questions to get more specific answers:


- What story did your teacher read to the class today?
- What did you write about today?
- What was your favorite part of the day?
- Did you work with a partner or buddy class?
- What did you do in art, music, library or gym class?
- What did you learn in science or math (or any other subject)?
- How do you feel about the work you did today?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Who did you play with today?
- Did you receive or give a compliment today?
- How are you going to make tomorrow even better? (Hint: When children tell you about their difficulties with friends or class work, it is best to be calm and sympathetic, while allowing your child to accept responsibility and ownership for problem-solving and solutions. Talking with your child about some reasonable options for handling this type of issue "next time" may help build their confidence and problem solving skills.)

The Best in Me: The Seven Habits of Happy Kids


At Hevel, our students have been studying and practicing the habits based on Stephen Covey's book, The Leader in Me. This student program has evolved from Stephen Covey's work, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. The goal is to provide students with tools that inspire confidence, problem solving and improved school culture as well as academic

- Think "Win-Win". Seek acceptable outcomes for everyone involved.
Please have a discussion with your child about these desirable lifelong habits.

Reading Tips

1. *Skip tricky words* and read the rest of the sentence. Then GO BACK and read the sentence again. Usually you can figure out the word by the *context* (the other words) of the sentence. 
2. Try to stretch the word out and look for patterns.
 - **Get your mouth ready** for the beginning sounds. Ex: sh, ch, cl, tr, dr, etc.
 - **Look at the vowels** - one vowel in a word usually means it is a short vowel. Ex: cat, hat, etc.
 - **Two vowels together** —"When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking". Ex: "ea" says the long e sound, "ai" says the long a sound.
 - **Silent e** at the end makes the first vowel say its long and strong name. Ex: late, make
 - **Look for a small word** within a word. Ex: **slam**
 - **Spell** the word out loud and think about the sounds the letters make. Try the word again.
3. Ask a friend or an adult for help when you've tried everything and you're still stuck.

Promote Reading in Your Family

- Spend 30 minutes a day reading to your child (it doesn't have to be all at once).
 - Keep reading materials visible and available throughout the house.
 - Look at book covers and allow your child to make predictions about books.
 - Talk about the story as you read. Talk about the pictures in books.
 - Give books as gifts.
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Homework Matters!

Homework at Hevel Elementary is a requirement and not an option; state requirements and district curriculum are rigorous. Please be sure that you assist your child in the timely completion of homework. Homework is important because it:



- **Builds** a positive attitude toward school work and a home-school connection.
- **Develops** responsibility in getting items to and from school. *Meeting deadlines is an important life skill.*
- **Lays the "groundwork"** for future school responsibilities and requirements-*it gives children the message that homework is a priority in your family.*
- **Allows** parents an opportunity to supervise, assist and **insist** that your child produce quality work that is complete and correct. *You are your child's first teacher.*
- **Strengthens** skills, supports school curriculum and makes you an integral partner with your child's teacher. *You can also gain an insight as to how your child understands the curriculum.*
- **Keeps** you current on what your child is studying in school and allows some quality time spent together.
- **Delivers** the message to your child that parents value education and want their children to succeed.
- **Allows** opportunities for organization, time management, commitment and the routines that are needed for school homework assignments. *Your child needs a quiet place to study and a supply of materials that can be used for assignments and creativity.*

March Dates to Remember:



February 29th

- Each family will receive a book (via the "oldest or only child" at Hevel), **The Mouse and the Motorcycle**, for "March is Reading Month". Be sure to read the information sent with your child regarding the reading schedule. This book is a great read-aloud for the whole family.

March 2nd

- PLC Day—2:40 p.m. Dismissal

March 4th

- Snack Cart \$1.00

March 5th

- Hevel's Green Club is hosting a fundraising event at Barnes and Noble from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

March 10th

- Family Fun Night-5:00-8:00 p.m.

March 11th

- Records Day—No school for elementary students

March 16th

- Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:00 p.m. (These will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis)

March 18th

- Snack Cart \$1.00
- "Read My Shirt" or "Read My Hat" Day

March 25th

- Good Friday-No School

April 1st

- Snack Cart \$1.00
- Hevel's Annual "Read-In" - p.m.
- Parent Club will provide snacks
- Spring Break begins at the end of the day and resumes on Monday, April 11th.

