



Moorsbridge Elementary

Dear Parent,

We appreciate the time you took to meet with teachers to discuss your child's progress. The students see how you value education and are encouraged by your words of support, so thank you for continuing these efforts as we move toward the last third of the school year. The PTO dinner was delicious and staff were so appreciative of your kindness and culinary skills! Thank you again for all you do!

You may have seen our police liaison Eric Kline out in the parking lot. There have been a few parent complaints about cars parked illegally in handicap parking, cars parked in the "No Parking" zones and cars parked without drivers in the Car Loop after school. Remember these rules and you will never have to worry about getting a ticket:

1. **The Car Loop**-is for cars dropping children off or picking children up after school, where the car driver stays **IN** the car. If you have to get out of the car to open the trunk, unbuckle your child, give a last kiss and hug, you should park in the parking lot. The reason for this is we do not want anyone to be hit by a car! The children should be getting out on the sidewalk side but sometimes a car door will not open and the children have to get out on the driveway side which is **VERY** dangerous.

*Curious Kids' Parents please use the parking lot after 8:15 if you are coming in the building.

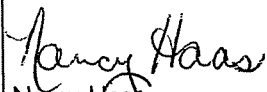
2. **The Parking Lot**- is for parents assisting their child out of the car, or for parents who are coming in the building. We have the green turtles and cones we put out across the drive so everyone can walk across safely.
3. **Handicap Parking Spots**-We have five spots closest to the front porch area for our families that need handicapped parking. Those spots are very close to the crosswalk area and so it is **NOT** the place to pull in and let children out of the vehicle.

ALL of our Car and Parking Lot rules are designed to keep our students **SAFE!**

The extra sunshine and warmer weather have us thinking about Spring! Please continue to send boots to school as students will need these to go off the blacktop areas for weeks to come.

Parent/Guardian Input Forms for Student Placement are available in the office and on-line. This information is useful to us as we plan for the 2010-2011 school year. Forms are due in the office by March 25th, 2010. If your plans change and you think you might be moving, please let our office know.

Enjoy the sunshine-Spring is coming!


Nancy Haas
Principal

March, 2010

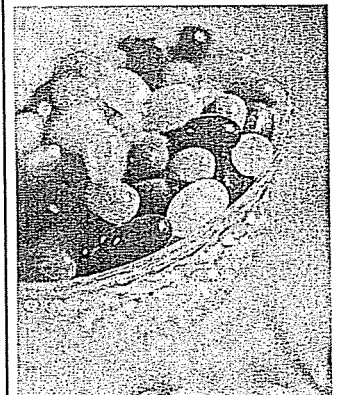
Moorsbridge Mission Statement

A community of active learners dedicated to instilling life skills while building a foundation for academic achievement.

7361 Moorsbridge Road
323-6400
FAX 323-6490

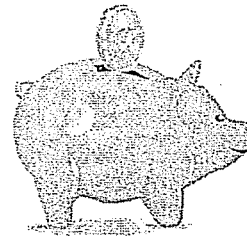
Nancy Haas,
Principal

Cathy Hull &
Lynn Daniel
Administrative Assistants



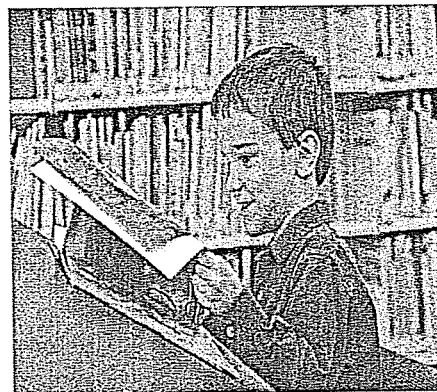
CHANGE CHALLENGE

Change Challenge-is going on right now to raise money for more Accelerated Reader tests and books for our Media Center. Students can bring in spare change, dollar bills or you can write a check (if you want to make a tax deduction donation) out to Moorsbridge Elementary and put "Change Challenge" in the memo line. The Change Challenge continues until March 25th. The grade level that collects the most change will have a bookplate with each child's name put in a book purchased with the money raised!



Kindergarten Informational Meeting

If you have a child turning five before December 1st, please be sure to call the office and register for Kindergarten. Our Pre-Kindergarten informational meeting will be on March 11 at 6:30 pm here at Moorsbridge. This meeting is for all new Kindergarten parents for the 2010-2011 school year. Parents of current Young 5's students do not need to attend this meeting. You will be able to make your appointment for screening at this meeting. Parents who attend this meeting will be given first priority for scheduling. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call after March 11 to make your screening appointment. You may call the office at 323-6400. Screening will take place here at Moorsbridge April 7, 8 & 9.



The Curious Kids Program – Child Care and Preschool

REGISTER SOON!

CHILD CARE - Curious Kids offers child care for various ages at several sites throughout the district. We provide meals and snacks, fun activities and a safe and welcoming environment! Flexible payment plans and family discounts! Please contact us at 323-6780 for more information!

CK @ Milham – Care for children ages 6 weeks through 14 years. Transportation via PPS buses to and from Amberly, Haverhill, Lake Center, Central, and 12th Street Elementaries.

Curious Kids offers care for children in Young 5's through 5th grade at our satellite sites, located at Woodland and Moorsbridge Elementaries!

New!!! Angling Road Elementary will host a Curious Kids site for the 2010/2011 school year!

PRESCHOOL – 3 and 4 year old Preschool classes are available at our Milham site. Certified teachers teach a ½ day class to students. Please call Sue Haroldson at 323-6764 for more information! Families registering by April 1st receive \$20.00 off their registration fee!

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

Moorsbridge Elementary School
Nancy Haas, Principal

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System*

Ms. Frizzle blasts her class into the solar system for some out-of-this-world science lessons. One of the Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Doctor De Soto Goes to Africa*

In this tale by William Steig, the famous mouse dentist travels to Africa. But before he can repair the tooth of Mudambo the elephant, an unhappy monkey kidnaps him!



■ *The Whingdingdilly*

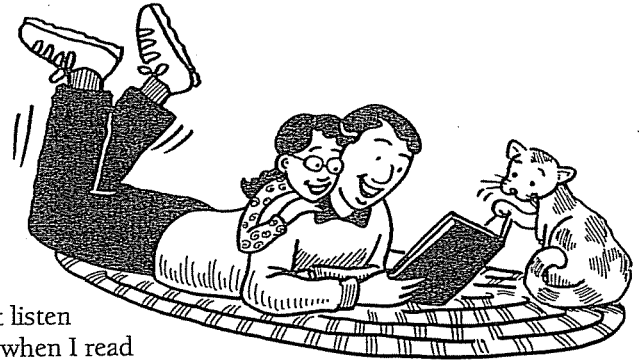
Scamp is bored with his life as a dog. Then Zildy the witch changes him into a Whingdingdilly. Life is anything but boring now—but is Scamp happy? Read this story by Bill Peet to find out.

■ *Babushka's Doll*

"It wasn't that Natasha was a truly naughty child." So begins the story of a little girl who needs some practice learning patience. The lesson begins when Natasha picks up her grandmother's doll. A magical story by Patricia Polacco.



Reading aloud



"I always stumble because I read too fast."
"I'm afraid my child won't listen to me." "I was laughed at when I read aloud at school."

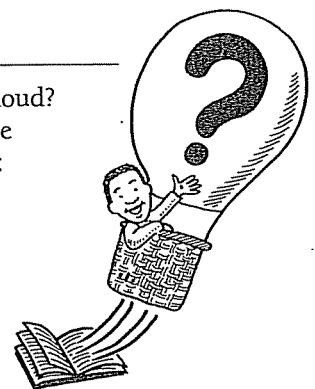
Do you have worries like these when you read aloud? You're not alone. Many parents avoid reading aloud to their kids. However, reading aloud is one of the best ways to help your youngster succeed in school. Keep these tips in mind:

- Everybody makes mistakes. If you make mistakes when reading aloud, your child will learn that it's okay for her to do so, too.
- Practice makes perfect. Find a book that you like and read it aloud by yourself until you feel comfortable.
- Involve your youngster in the story. Have her turn the pages. Or read one line and let her read the next.
- Take your time and don't rush the story. Your child can tell if you're in a hurry. Reading slowly will help you read clearly.
- As you feel more comfortable, try changing your voice to show the characters' feelings—joy, sadness, fear. These variations can make the story more exciting for both of you!
- Remember that you are helping your youngster learn to enjoy reading. Try different types of reading materials, such as comic strips and poetry.
- Above all, try to relax and enjoy the time you're spending with your child. ♥

Understanding stories

Does your child listen actively when you read aloud? It's a key to understanding what's happening in the story. Try these simple tips to build listening skills:

1. Ask your youngster to retell small parts of the story to you. Or ask him questions while you read. *Examples:* "What will happen next?" "Why do you think she did that?" Find the answers to the questions together.
2. After you've read a story together two or three times, skip a word or two. Ask your child to fill in the missing word or words. *Hint:* This works especially well with rhyming stories. ♥



Use what you know

Reading new words

Can your youngster read a word like “supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”? Maybe not! But did you know that your child can use words he already knows to read new words? Here’s how:

■ Start with your youngster’s name. Troy, for example, might have an easier time learning “tr” words such as “train.” You can use the “tr” consonant blend at the



beginning of his name to teach him other blends as well, such as “cr,” “pl,” and “st.”

■ Point out patterns in sight words your child recognizes.

Example: If your youngster knows “they,” he can learn “then,” “this,” and “that.”

“Could,” “would,” and “should” are three common sight words that also share a pattern.

■ Break down syllables in a longer word, such as “yesterday.” Cover the entire word with a small slip of paper. Then, slowly slide the paper to the right to show each syllable one at a time (yes-ter-day). This works especially well for words with several syllables, such as “supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”!♥

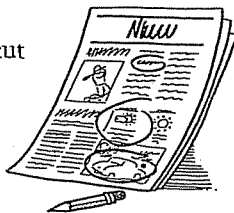


Newspaper learning

With thousands of words in every issue, newspapers are a great way to build your youngster’s skills. Grab a paper, and try these activities.

Matching game

Have your child cut out several photographs and their captions separately. Mix them up. Matching the captions and the photos will improve her reading comprehension.



Scavenger hunt

List items in the newspaper (car ad, crossword puzzle, weather forecast), and ask your youngster to find and circle each one. She’ll build research skills as she looks through the pages.

ABC order

Together, find the names of 5–10 countries, states, and cities in headlines or stories. Let your child copy each one onto an index card and arrange the cards in alphabetical order. This will help her practice spelling and learn about geography.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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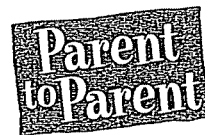
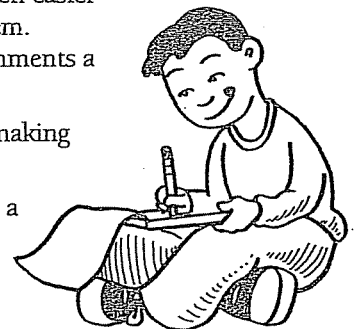


Real writing

Q My son doesn’t enjoy writing. He will write a few words, such as his spelling lists. But when it’s time to write a paragraph or a story, he complains. Any ideas?

A Have your son try a few “real” writing tasks. It’s often easier for kids to write about things that have meaning for them. Encourage your child to give those longer writing assignments a try with ideas like these:

- Have him write what he remembers about the day (making a new friend, playing kickball, having pizza for lunch).
- Let him choose a cherished toy or animal and write a few sentences describing it. *Example:* “The bunny is soft. He hops fast.”
- Ask him to write lists of favorite songs, favorite characters in a movie, or ideas for his birthday.♥



Simple reading practice

I’ve found a way to give my children reading practice—and improve their behavior at the same time. I write short notes to my kids and leave them around the house.

Sometimes I’ll mention my youngsters’ good behavior (“Thanks for helping with the dishes!”) or write reminders (“Please hang me up. Signed, Your towel”). Sometimes the notes are about

not-so-good behavior. (“I was disappointed when you yelled at me. Can we talk about it?”) I make sure to leave notes for treats, too (“Let’s go fly your kite this afternoon!”).

I look for unique places to put the notes, such as on their pillows, in front of the dog’s water bowl, or pinned to the shower curtain. The kids enjoy discovering the notes and reading them aloud.♥

