



Corbitt Connection

October 12, 2009



Box Tops

Our school has been participating in a collection of *Box Tops for Education* this year. It is as easy as collect, send, and earn.

Collect: You can clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating General Mills products.

Send: Send in your collected Box Tops coupons with your child and I will collect in a large brown envelope marked "Box Tops for Education" that will be near the sink, where the students place their planners. The best way to send the box tops in would be in either a ziplock bag or labeled envelope in the back pocket of your child's planner.

Earn: Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10 cents. This may not seem like much, but every little bit helps.

Writer's Workshop Update

This week we will continue working on narrative writing. Our focus will be on adding more details. Including details that are in both our "great" and "excellent" categories of our Narrative writing rubric, which is available for you to see at www.mrscorbitt.com.

Reader's Workshop Update

This week we will be discussing the importance of summarizing. We will use the graphic organizer SWBS. SWBS stands for "Somebody Wanted But So." Somebody is your main character, Wanted is the plot, But is the problem, and So is the solution.

Parent Night

One week from tonight (Monday, October 19th) we, the first grade teachers, will be hosting a Parent Night. The emphasis will be on math. You will have the opportunity to rotate through different sessions and we will help to explain how you can help your child at home this year.

Skills Block

We are now two thirds of the way through reviewing the short vowels. This week's letter is "e." It is very important that your child knows the difference between the short sounds of "e" and "i." The differences in the sounds are very subtle so I encourage you to help your child at home to be certain that he/she hears the difference.

"What Can I Do at Home?"

While searching www.scholastic.com I came across an article titled *The 10 Best Ways to Help Your 1st-Grader Succeed in School A parent's to-do list* by Ann E. LaForge. Over the next ten weeks I will be including her tips on the back of the newsletter. This week's tip is to *Encourage Reading in any way that you can*. The article includes three "milestones" that your child will reach during his/her reading journey and several tips on how you can help your child reach those milestones. I would like to encourage you to read through the article and then see if the tips have a positive effect on your own child's reading.

Math Workshop Update

This week the students will be completing a variety of missing number activities. Your child will be expected to write the numbers from 1-100 without a mistake. This week's activities will help your child become more proficient with writing the numbers 1-100 and beyond.

Important Dates to Remember

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| October 13 | OLD Library Books are due |
| October 19 | Parent Night-details soon ☺ |
| October 21 | Early Dismissal @ 1:45 p.m. |
| October 26 | NO SCHOOL-Planning Day |

Encourage reading in any way you can

There is no way to overestimate the importance of reading. It not only enhances learning in all of the other subject areas, it exposes children to a wealth of information and experiences they might not otherwise enjoy. It stimulates the imagination, nourishes emotional growth, builds verbal skills, and influences analyzing and thinking. In fact, according to every teacher I spoke to, reading *to* or *with* your child every day is the single most important thing you can do.

MILESTONE 1: Your child realizes that individual printed words represent individual spoken words and begins to recognize and read a few — such as *dog*, *car*, and *no*, plus his own name.

How to help:

- Read together every day.
- Encourage your child to point to words as he "reads" a book.
- Help her learn to write and identify upper- and lowercase letters.
- Teach him how to spell and write familiar words and names.
- Play word-related games (as in: "I'm going to eat something on this table that begins with the letter B. Can you guess what it is?" or "Let's say all the words we can think of that start with the letter T").
- Together, come up with a list of short, simple words that rhyme (such as bat, cat, sat, rat, hat). Write them down in a column, so your child can see how part of each word is similar.

MILESTONE 2: Your child can read simple, repetitive books using the text or illustrations to figure out unfamiliar words.

How to help:

- Read a new book aloud several times before encouraging your child to tackle it on his own.
- Listen to your child read and help — if asked — with problem words. Act like it's no big deal if he misses some. Concentrate, instead, on making the experience fun.
- If your child misses a lot of words while reading, and starts acting frustrated, offer to take over the reading, or choose an easier book. Never force your child to read a book that's too hard just because his friends can read it, or his sister could when she was his age.
- Help your child write and read his own stories and books. Accept whatever spellings he uses, even if it's only the initial letters of each word.
- Get your child her own library card.

MILESTONE 3: Your child begins to read short, illustrated books on her own, for enjoyment.

How to help:

- Make frequent trips to the local library, and encourage your child to pick out her own books.
- When your child is reading to you, casually supply the words she doesn't know or can't figure out. Encouragement is still more important than correction.
- Play games that involve reading skills (for example, have a treasure hunt and place written clues around the house; play Junior Scrabble and other age-appropriate board games).
- Ask your child to read to a younger friend or sibling.
- Leave your child brief notes — to say "I love you" or "Good luck" or "Don't forget to take your homework to school" — in her lunch box, near her cereal bowl at breakfast, or on the bathroom mirror.
- Give books as gifts.
- Limit TV, computer, and video game time, and encourage your child to read instead — even it's only his baseball cards or some comic books.