



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 37: March 2017

Family Literacy Nights

Research shows that parent involvement helps improve student learning and success in school. One way to support students and collaborate with families is to host a family writing night at your school. Our family nights focus on the families and the culture they can share with others. At the first family night we had at our school, parents were encouraged to bring pictures and artifacts to share and write about. Families brought pictures to write about a family story, artifacts to remember a loved one, and some just came to learn how we write. Our first family night had 15 families, and we had translators to bridge the language connection. Our second family literacy night had a theme of art. The art teacher created a gallery of student work that brought in culture and pictures. Families were able to write together and then enjoyed walking through a gallery of cultural art that their children made at school. Family literacy night offers a time to get to know families and their special traditions.

At the start of the new school year, our literacy night this last fall included a local author who shared how she writes and gets work published. Parents and children received the author's signed books afterwards and took pictures with the author. It was just another way to kick off a year of great writing and reading.

At our last family night in January, a family brought in seaweed and rice wraps to share which was a favorite food in their Thai culture. We all enjoyed drinking Turkish coffee, a tradition in our Arabic families' culture while we shared stories and learned more about our parents. Families also learned how to keep a journal together by writing dash facts of a fun family trip.

At family literacy nights, families have the opportunity to share their story and children love to show off their writing skills. The home/school connection deepens as children see the rich opportunities to share their culture and traditions with others.

Don't forget the door prizes! Our family nights include books, journals, and writing materials to help encourage our families to write and to continue to share literacy experiences together.

Sarah Chumney

Cason Lane Academy

For tips on starting your own Family Literacy Night contact Sarah Chumney at sarah.chumney@cityschools.net

Upcoming Opportunities

April 15—Spring Mini-Conference

Come celebrate the findings of the classroom research conducted by the 2016 ISI Fellows

April 29—Saturday Seminars

Guided Writing in Intervention

and

Speaking Before Writing with ELL Students

For more information visit www.middletnwritingproject.org