



RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monica B. Leary Elementary School

November 2019

Leary Pride

Dear Leary Family,

We are working on building strong parent partnerships throughout the school year. A few ways we do this is through parent conferences, progress reports, the Leary web pages, and an annual parent survey. We use these opportunities to provide you with information, while also seeking your input regarding your child's learning and ways to continue to improve our school.

At the end of this month, you will have the opportunity to conference with your child's teacher and discuss your child's progress at school. During this meeting, teachers will take the time to talk with you more about how your child is progressing in meeting New York State's Standards by sharing the various ways we are monitoring your child's progress. This includes unit tests, running reading records, MAPs scores, writing samples, and student conferences.

You will receive a copy of your child's first progress report on Friday, November 22, prior to this conference. At the conference, you will have an opportunity to review the report with your child's teacher and ask specific questions. If you need a translator or interpreter for this meeting and have not informed school, please be sure to contact your child's teacher.

In preparation for receiving the first report card of the year, we would like to remind you that Leary Elementary is a standards-based learning environment. Schools across the country are centering their teaching on content and learning standards. To more appropriately address standards-based instruction and learning, traditional report cards have been revamped, especially in the elementary years. Standards-based report cards provide more consistency between teachers than traditional report cards, because all children are evaluated on the same grade-appropriate skills. This approach also carries over to classroom assignments, as the report card influences the way teachers assess student learning throughout the year. Teachers share these expectations in the form of rubrics with students, often posting them for students to reference. Now when students receive an assignment, they know exactly what they have to do to be proficient or advanced.

Standards-based teaching and reporting may be unknown territory for parents because it is different than the way teaching or report cards were structured when we went to school. One thing you can expect at your child's conference is to see samples of your child's work along with examples that are representative of student work at a proficient level. Teachers collect this information in a student data folio to track progress

throughout the school year. Included in this data folio are copies of math unit tests, student writing samples, informal reading assessments, etc. Teachers use this information to make instructional decisions throughout the school year. To learn more about Leary's and Rush-Henrietta's instructional programs, you can visit the Office of Instruction webpage at <http://www.rhnet.org/instruction>.

In addition to our ongoing communication through progress reports and parent conferences, we also seek your feedback through district surveys. Our district's annual parent survey will be conducted later this year. Thanks to this feedback, we have continued to strengthen our school, making it an even better place for your children. The survey will help us gain additional parent insight into how we can make our school a better experience for parents. As your child's principal, I hope to hear from you when our new survey is posted later in the school year. You will have an opportunity to tell us how we are doing and share ideas for improvement. We take your feedback seriously in our constant quest to make our school a great place to learn. In the meantime, I am always happy to hear your suggestions.

If you have any questions about standards-based teaching or reporting, your first contact should be with your child's teacher. As always, you may request a teacher conference at any time to better understand how your child is learning and progressing in school.

Warmly,



Jennifer Tomalty
Leary Principal





LITERACY AT LEARY

November 2019

By: Karen Tabor
Literacy Coach

Building Reading Stamina

Having stamina for something means being able to stick with something for periods of time. This stamina, or endurance, builds strength. Stamina can apply to lots of different areas, such as exercise or painting. It can also apply to reading.

Teachers often think about a student's reading stamina. Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long-ish periods of time without being distracted or without distracting others. Reading stamina is something that parents can help students develop. Here's how:

1. Vary the way the reading is done. Parents can think about this in terms of having their child "read to himself, read to someone, and listen to reading." Some combination of the three should make up the reading time, especially for new or struggling readers.
2. Choose "just right" books. If your child is at a stage of being able to read alone, help him choose books that he is able to read independently. This means he should be able to decode almost every word in the book correctly. In this situation, avoid using books that are too difficult to read alone. If your child will be reading with you, choose books that are lively and engaging.
3. Set reasonable goals. Most toddlers and preschoolers find it difficult to sit for long periods of time, even with the most engaging book! When starting out, limit book time to just a few minutes and work up from there. For elementary-aged readers, consider starting with 10-15 minutes of reading time, and work up from there. Add a few minutes to your reading time every week or so.
4. Celebrate progress. Without getting too caught up on the number of minutes spent reading, celebrate the time that is spent reading. Share your favorite parts of books read, plan the next visit to the library, and share progress with other family members.

Spending longer periods of time reading means fewer interruptions and more time reading what you love. As your child moves into higher grades, having reading stamina will help your child navigate the longer texts and assignments. Using these tips can help develop more stamina in your reader.

Brought to you by:



Please feel free to contact me at any time: Karen Tabor
585-359-5469

ktabor@rhnet.org

November Health Office News:



This is a great time to consider the flu vaccine if your child has not yet had it. Monroe County is beginning to see flu cases already and unfortunately, one pediatric death from flu already this season.

Remember the District Policies on health: you should keep your student home from school for 24 hours if they are vomiting, or have a temperature over 100.1 F, (that is fever free for 24 hours with no medication). This will help protect your child from exposure to another illness, and protect classmates.

There was a national Prescription Medication Drop-off Day on 10/26. If you missed that opportunity to clear out your medicine cabinet, good news - Monroe County has several permanent sites for dropping off old, outdated, unused prescription or non-prescription medications. These are listed on a separate page. Make the safe choice for your family – when in doubt, throw it out.

Thank you!

Have a safe and healthy November!


Thankful

- Avoiding contact with family
- Change in activities, hobbies or sports
- Drop in grades or work performance
- Isolation and secretive behavior
- Moodiness, irritability, nervousness, giddiness, nodding off
- Stealing
- Problems, absenteeism, tardiness at work/school, unusual conflicts with family or friends

ADVANCED WARNING SIGN:

- Missing Medication

Help is Available

The New York State Hopeline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for alcoholism, drug abuse and problem gambling. All calls are free, anonymous and confidential.

Find help and hope

for alcoholism, drug abuse or problem gambling

Call or Text **1-877-8-HOPENY**

Text: HOPENY (467369) 1-877-846-7369

Proper Disposal of Medications Can Aid in the Prevention of:

- Drug diversion and abuse
- Accidental poisonings
- Confusion with other medications in the same storage area
- Consumption of old or expired medication
- Medication being released into the environment

Safe Disposal Options in New York State:

Your local pharmacy may be able to accept your discontinued, expired or unwanted medications as a DEA Authorized Collector. Check with your pharmacy or use the DEA Authorized Collection Sites link below.

Medication Drop Boxes Listed by County	www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/medication_drop_boxes/
New York State Drug Collection Events	www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/63826.html
DEA Drug Take Back Events	www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html
DEA Authorized Collection Sites	www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1
Medication Mail Back Programs	Inquire at local pharmacies concerning cost and availability

**It's important to know the facts. It's going to take all of us.
Let's come together, prevent substance abuse and combat addiction.**

Combat Heroin - www.combatheroin.ny.gov
 New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services - www.oasas.ny.gov
 New York State Department of Health - www.health.ny.gov

Produced by the New York State Department of Health
 and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

November

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 B Day	2
3 <i>Don't forget to set your clocks back!</i>	4 C Day	5 D Day	6 A Day	7 B Day	8 C Day	9
10	11 <i>Veterans Day School closed</i>	12 D Day	13 A Day <i>PTO mtg 6:30 p.m.</i>	14 B Day	15 C Day	16 <i>Start of gun/muzzle loading season. No outside recess.</i>
17	18 D Day	19 A Day	20 B Day	21 C Day <i>Picture re-take day</i>	22 D Day	23
24	25 <i>Superintendent's Conference Day No school Parent-teacher conf. 1-3 p.m.</i>	26 <i>Superintendent's Conference Day No school Parent-teacher conf. 8am-3pm</i>	27 <i>Thanksgiving Recess No School</i>	28 <i>Thanksgiving Recess No School</i>	29 <i>Thanksgiving Recess No School</i>	30

