

Herbert J. Dexter Elementary School

Principal's Corner

Greetings Dexter Families,

Each year in March we highlight our passion for reading, increase awareness and promote independence and inclusion for all students with disabilities, and honor the contributions of women in American history.

As you already know, we had a week full of fun activities in conjunction with "Read Across America." I appreciate your efforts to ensure your child's participation in these activities and would like to thank all our guest readers! If you were not able to be a guest reader this last time, please be sure to sign up for a later time this month, as we continue celebrating National Reading Month. More information on this opportunity will be shared next week. Since it is National Reading Month and Disability Awareness Month, we will use literature to continue cultivating an environment that is inclusive of everyone.

Additionally, our students are engaged in various lessons and activities in support of Women's History Month. If the culminating projects for Black History Month were any indication of what is to come for Women's History Month, then we are in for a treat! I look forward to participating in the various students' demonstrations of the contributions women have made in American History.

Until next time...

Principal Dunn

A Note from Nurse Lynn

Spring is here!!!! Spring ushers in beautiful flowers, plants, and wonderful weather. In addition, we also get that big helping of pollen and insects like bees, wasps, and ants. Please, encourage your children to be aware of their surroundings and let you know if something has bitten or stung them.



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Herbert J. Dexter Elementary

Motto: "where we learn from the past to create our own future"

School Colors: Blue, Red and White

Mascot: Herbie the Eagle

Nurse Lynn Swinford



Ms. DeShaun Howard



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If your child does happen to have seasonal allergies that are covered with the use of medications you might want to consider filling his/her prescriptions. There have been numerous students coming into the clinic with complaints of itchy, watery eyes, runny noses, headaches, and itchy/scratchy throats which are just a couple of the more common symptoms of allergies. Sadly, some of these symptoms are the same for COVID so be careful if symptoms appear.

Reminder that students cannot drink from water fountains so please make sure you are sending a water bottle with your kiddos. We want them to stay hydrated. Also, please try to send your child to school each day with a fresh, clean mask.

You know I cannot just let an opportunity pass by so.....WASH YOUR HANDS!! Clean hands are the number one way to stay healthy.

Hope every enjoys our upcoming spring break!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 706-545-7770 or lynn.swinford@dodea.edu

Warmest Regards,

Lynn Swinford BSN RN

Dexter School Nurse

Counselor

Daylight savings is this weekend and the weather is beginning to get warmer by the day. This time and weather change is a great opportunity for kids to play outside longer in the evenings after school and on the weekends. This will allow children and families



more time to breath fresh air, engage in outdoor activities and to enjoy nature. Here are five good reasons why it's so important for parents to incorporate children playing outside based on research from Sanford Health:

1. Build physically and healthier children.

Outdoors is the perfect place for running, jumping, throwing balls, pulling things, lifting and carrying objects. All of these things consist of physical movement of the body which is exactly what children need. While doing these activities, they are helping to prevent obesity and strengthening their muscles.

2. Contribute to cognitive and social/emotional development.

Unstructured outdoor play helps kids learn to take turns, share and develop other positive behavioral skills. They are also able to use their imagination and explore the world around them and recognize their own abilities.

3. Improve sensory skills.

When playing outside, children utilize their five senses in various ways as opposed to sitting or playing indoors, watching television or playing on an electronic device.

4. Increase attention spans.

Children who play outdoors regularly are more curious, self-directed and likely to stay with a task longer. Children who spend most of their time indoors with little exposure to activities requiring their own initiation and follow-through show less ability to initiate or participate in new activities.

5. Grow in happiness and immunity.

Outdoor light stimulates a part of the brain called the pineal gland. This part of our brain is vital to keeping our immune system strong and making us feel happier. Sunlight also provides much needed Vitamin D which is very important for our health.

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Military and Family Life Counseling (MFLC)

Military and Family Life Counseling (MFLC) provides brief solution based, non-medical counseling in person or via telehealth (virtual). Please feel free to contact the MFLC at 706.969.9859 to schedule an appointment.

Deployment Buddies is a group held at Dexter to support children of active duty parents who are deployed. Please contact MFLC if you would like more information or for your child(ren) to join.

Tea Time Tips is back this April! It is an opportunity for Dexter Eagle parents to refresh skills on various topics like healthy communication as a couple, tips on navigating homework and overall wellness! Please stay tuned for upcoming dates and times.

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Technology Tips from Ms. Showalter

Browse the Web Like a Pro

Everybody likes shortcuts. Here are a few cool shortcuts that may help your students when they are using computers in the classroom or at home.

Reopen a Closed Browser Tab

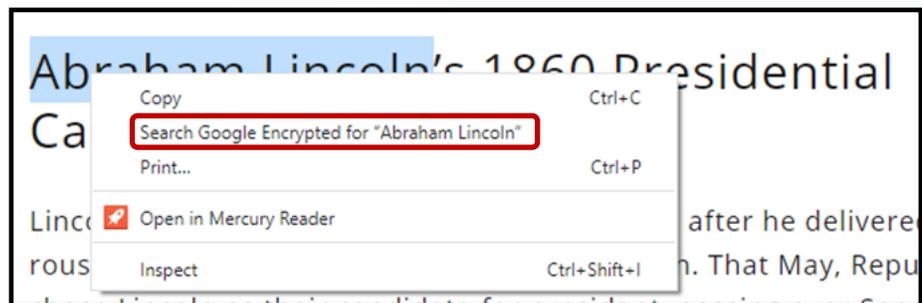
Keeping track of multiple browser tabs can be difficult. If you accidentally close the wrong one, you could look through your browser's history and reopen the tab from there. But you usually can reopen it with an easy keyboard command.



Press **Ctrl+Shift+T** to automatically reopen the tab you just closed. This even works if you accidentally close the entire browser!

Search Google with a Right-Click

If you are reading an article online and see a term that you would like to research more about, you can easily highlight the term and then right-click it in your browser and choose the "Search Google Encrypted." (The wording may vary depending on which browser you are using). Your browser will then open a new tab with search results on the topic.



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Use Your Scroll Wheel to Open A New Tab

If you see a blue hyperlink on a webpage, you can quickly and easily open it in a new tab using your mouse scroll wheel. Just place your cursor on the link and click down on your scroll wheel like a button. It will automatically open the link in a new tab. This is much quicker than opening a new tab, copying the link location, and pasting it in your browser!



Math Tips from Ms. Rodriguez

Numberless Word Problems

Solving math word problems can be challenging. Often students rush through the information to apply an operation to the numbers they see without really paying attention to what the problem is asking them to solve. Using a numberless word problem strategy allows students to think about the problem as a story instead of a computation. This can be easily done by covering the numbers up and asking questions such:

- What is the story about?
- Who are the characters?
- What are they trying to do?
- What do you know?
- What do you notice?
- What is this problem asking you to find?
- Do you have all the information you need?

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Here is an example of a numberless word problem you can try at home with your student that will work with any grade level. Your student can create their own numbers (whole numbers, fractions, decimals) and see if the numbers make sense for the problem they are trying to solve.

*Ms. Rodriguez had **many students** in her class.*

*A few more students joined her class in spring. Now there were **a lot of kids** in Ms. Rodriguez's Class.*

How many students were added to Ms. Rodriguez's class?

Reading with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gathers

Read About It, Talk About It, and Think About It!

Part 1: Fiction Books



Talking about books is a great way to help your child build understanding and improve reading comprehension. Whether you read the book aloud or the child reads the book independently, rich discussions can foster critical thinking—a key skill for success in school as well as life. Like any conversation, talking about books can happen anywhere and at any time — in the car, at the bus stop, or over dinner.

Here are some questions that may help you to support your children’s reading and enjoyment of the books that they choose. It is not expected that you ask every question, every time they read a book! However, by choosing 2 or 3 of the questions to ask your child **before, during** and **after** reading, it will support developing comprehension of what they read and ultimately, their enjoyment of the books that they choose.

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Before your child reads a book, ask:

- Why did you select this book?
- What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?
- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you’ve already read or seen?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- What do you think is going to happen?

During the reading of the book, ask:



- Will you catch me up on the story? What's happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- If you were that character, what would you have done differently?
- Where does the story take place?
- What is the problem in the story?
- How was the problem solved? Would you have solved it differently?

After your child has finished a book, ask questions like:

- What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Did the book end the way you thought it would?
- Did the problem in the story get solved?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

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STEM and Gifted Education with Ms. Hardy

Second Graders in Mrs. Harmon's class are exploring the invention of the computer, from machines the size of a room to smartphones that fit in our pockets. In the activity, Bed Inventions, students will explore different types of bed inventions, and then design and draw a bed invention of their own.

Third graders investigate area and perimeter! This week the third graders are creating area and perimeter robots during STEM class. Using graph paper and the dimensions given on a

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robot instruction card, each student is designing a robot that measures a specific area or perimeter for arms, legs, body, and head. Look for our robots to decorate the third-grade hallway this week!

Third through Fifth Graders have been learning about the energy that things need to move. Students have explored how energy makes things go, from powering vehicles to moving one's body. Students have experimented with rubber bands to discover the relationship between how much energy is stored in a material and how much is released. They are investigating the role that hills play in making roller coasters move and the energy transfer that happens when two objects collide. Next week we will begin creating a mini "Rube Goldberg" chain reaction device that utilizes stored gravitational energy. Thinking about the world in terms of energy will help students make sense of how and why things speed up and slow down. Hands-on activities focus on engineering, testing hypotheses and using results to develop their ideas.

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News from the AAPS Program (Advanced Academics Programs and Services)



The Stock Market Game



Fourth and fifth grade AAPS students are learning so much about financial investing while participating in **The Stock Market Game™** program. This week a fourth-grade team called "Money Makers" is holding the lead. One stock investment choice has already increased in value more than a 28 percent! The students are learning about wise investment choices for short term vs long term investing and will share their ideas for a "diversified

portfolio” in the Stock Market Game “InvestWrite” essay competition. The first draft of the InvestWrite essay will be due in class on March 23rd.



Young Authors in Our School

Did you know that we have many aspiring young authors in our school? AAPS students in grades 1 – 5 are working on a novel idea for self-publication. We cannot wait to see the completed novels this May as we share our books in a “Young Authors Celebration.”

Upcoming Events

- **March 1-14: Virtual Book Fair** - Dexter PTO
- **March 17: Dexter Kindness Day** - Wear Green
- **March 22: Yearbook Order Deadline** - Dexter PTO
- **March 24: End of Quarter 3**
- **March 26: No School for Students:** Teacher Report Card Prep Day
- **March 29 - April 2: Spring Break**

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