Dear HPE Families:

This week, students in grades three through five are taking the MCA reading test. The reading test requires students to sit for at least an hour reading passages and answering questions about what they have read. During the past year, students have been spending far more time on iPads than prior to the pandemic, and for many students, this has decreased their stamina for reading for longer periods of time. It’s important for students to have the stamina to read texts that don’t include constant entertainment. Here is an article on how parents can help build stamina and raise strong readers.

**Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers**

**Growingreaders!**

Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine

Building Reading Stamina

Having stamina for something means being able to stick with something for periods of time, 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.

https://www.readingrockets.org/pdfs

Think about balancing iPad, TV, and video games with good old-fashioned reading. Reading stamina will ultimately result in greater academic success. We may call it old-fashioned, but really, reading never goes out of style!

Sincerely,

Nancy Flynn
Principal

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**Calendar of Events**

**May 2021 Globe**

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<th>May</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td>3-7 TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</td>
<td>3 Pre-K Virtual Orientation 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,5,11,12,18(Grade 5 Only for this day) MCA TESTING</td>
<td>3 Kindergarten Virtual Orientation 6:30 to 7:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 PTA MEETING 7 pm</td>
<td>7 PTA MEETING</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 5th Grade PYP Exhibition</td>
<td>11 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</td>
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<td>31 NO SCHOOL (ALL GRADES) - MEMORIAL DAY</td>
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Address: 1700 Saunders Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116 Phone: 651-293-8770 Fax: 651-293-8983
**Family Involvement News**

**MCA Tests** – Tuesday and Wednesday, May 4-5, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11-12, and Tuesday, May 18 (grade 5 only). The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests are administered to 3rd – 5th graders in reading and math. HPE 5th graders also take the science test. The tests are a state and federal requirement and are good indicators of what your child has learned during the year. They also show us how well we are teaching the materials. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 651-293-8770.

**Virtual PTA Meeting** - Monday, May 17 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. All families are invited and encouraged to attend to hear updates about the school year. In addition to regular PTA business, this meeting will include a review of the 2021-22 Title 1 budget, time to work on HPE’s 2021-22 Family Engagement Plan and 2021-22 Family-School Compacts for Achievement. Family participation and input regarding these school documents is very important and greatly appreciated. Translation in Somali and Spanish will be available. Watch for an email that will be sent out closer to the meeting date with the link to join this important meeting.

**PreK and Kindergarten Orientation** – Thursday, June 3 at 5:30 PM (PreK) and 6:30 PM (Kindergarten) on Zoom. For incoming students and their families to meet the PreK and Kindergarten teachers, the Principal and other staff. The orientation will also include a presentation followed by a Q&A session. Visit [HPE’s website](https://www.hpe.org) to get the Zoom link for this event.

**Other Important Information:**

**School Pictures** - It’s not too late to order your student’s 2020-21 school pictures. Go to [mylifetouch.com](https://www.mylifetouch.com) and log in with your Portrait ID and Access Code. This information is located on the proof preview picture package that was sent home with students in April. If you have any questions, please call Lifetouch at 800-736-4753.

**Rent Help** - RentHelpMN is now open and accepting applications. RentHelpMN makes it possible for eligible renters to get caught up on overdue rent and utilities dating back to March 13, 2020. It also makes provisions for those at risk of falling behind on rent payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To apply for RentHelpMN, visit [renthelpmn.org](https://renthelpmn.org) or call 211. The 211 helpline has dedicated multilingual staff available to answer questions about RentHelpMN, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Visit [renthelpmn.org](https://renthelpmn.org) to learn more about the program and eligibility requirements and to apply.

**SPPS Meal Boxes** – The last day for meal box pickups at HPE this school year is Wednesday, June 9. Information about community food resources for the week of June 14 will be posted on SPPS’s website at [spps.org/2021](https://www.spps.org/2021).

Families interested in receiving home meal box delivery this summer must register. To register visit [spps.org/2021](https://www.spps.org/2021). Each child in the household, including non-school aged children, can receive a meal box, but only one registration per household is necessary. There is no cost for home delivery. Families that currently get home delivery will be automatically enrolled in the summer meal delivery and do not need to re-register. Families that currently participate in meal box pickup must register if they would like meal box delivery this summer. There will also be seven locations for curbside meal box pick-up this summer. No registration is required to pick up at these sites. Visit [spps.org/2021](https://www.spps.org/2021) for a list of sites and pickup days. Summer curbside pickup sites will be open from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.
Friday May 28th is the Highland Park Elementary Fifth Grade Exhibition. The exhibition is an in-depth project celebrating the culmination of the students’ learning experience in the Primary Years Programme. Exhibition challenges the student to use all the knowledge they have gained as an I.B. student. The fifth grade students are working on creating their own unit of inquiry for the Transdisciplinary Theme How We Express Ourselves. The theme focuses on an “inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values”. The groups will research an issue that is of interest and importance to them. The fifth grade students will be encouraged to include an action plan with their project. They will choose how to share their research, knowledge and action plan with the whole school community. A mentor teacher supports each group as they work to present what they have learned and think about ways they could act to make a difference in the world. A website with exhibition projects will be shared before May 28. - Michelle Strecker, PYP Coordinator & 5th Grade Teachers, Jordan Ringquist and Donna Ryder.

Students are doing a great job learning to understand and speak in Spanish. In addition to their classes, students can practice the language at home. Here are a few activities to reinforce your student’s Spanish lessons at home.

1. Point to something and ask your student to tell you what color it is in Spanish.
2. Ask your student to tell you what clothes they are wearing in Spanish.
3. Draw a circle, triangle, square, rectangle, and a star. Ask your student to name the shapes in Spanish.
4. Look at a picture of your family. Your student can name these people and animals in Spanish (mom, grandmother, brother, dad, grandfather, sister, baby, aunt, uncle, dog, and cat).
5. Look outside and have your student describe the weather to you.
6. Play the game Simon Says. Your student can be Simon and teach you some body parts in Spanish.

Give a few of these ideas a try. Your student will enjoy teaching you what they have learned, and it is great practice. Have fun! - Kristi Papenfuss, Spanish Teacher
Shawna Nielson joined our English Learner (EL) Department in late January. She teaches some EL students in kindergarten to 3rd grade. Ms. Nielson works part-time at Highland and part-time at Maxfield. She loves to travel, and had a great experience teaching English in Japan for four years. She is excited to join the team at Highland Park.

Mrs. Yigletu, our bilingual Oromo and Amharic education assistant, works with students at Highland every morning until noon before going to Groveland Park. Ms Nguyen teaches EL students in grades 3-5 and I teach students in kindergarten to third grade.

I have taught at Highland Park Elementary for 32 years! I will retire (stop teaching) after this school year. I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to teach our interesting, bilingual English Learners. I had great experiences teaching Hmong students in northern Thailand and adult students in Hanoi, Vietnam on a sabbatical and travelling throughout Ethiopia two years ago to learn more about a fascinating country. I will deeply miss teaching students how to read and write and supporting families as needed.

Mr. Bogenschultz (Mr. B.)

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) offers Summer Learning Programs for students in grades K-12. Students will have opportunities to learn new things and strengthen current academic skills; prepare for the upcoming school year through active, fun and hands-on activities; and make progress toward graduation. All programs are FREE.

Click on Discover Summer above for more information on summer learning and registration information and links