



# Title I - Parent Connection Newsletter

March-April 2014

www.BeThere.org



## Calendar

**March 6-28:** Elementary Art Show at the Monroe Art Guild. Showcasing artwork by elementary students in Walton County.

FREE [www.monroeartguildathotmail.com](http://www.monroeartguildathotmail.com)

**March 19:** Walnut Grove Library hosts storytime at 11:00am with Miss Miranda

**March 22:** Read to the Dogs at Walnut Grove Library at 11:00am

**March 27:** Grandparents Raising Grandchildren monthly meeting at River of Mercy church in Monroe; 12:00-1:30pm. Lunch provided for grandparents

**March 27-30th:** Book Sale at the Walnut Grove United Methodist Church (see pg. 2)

**March 29:** Special Olympics Parade in downtown Monroe at 10:00am / Olympic Games follow parade at Monroe Area HS

**March 30:** Walton County Music Guild presents a Spring Concert at Monroe Art Guild at 3:00. Adults \$15.00 / Students FREE

**April 2:** Storytime with Mom's Club of Loganville at Walnut Grove Library—11:00am

**April 4:** Books and Beyond Book Club meets at Walnut Grove Library at 10:30am

**April 7-11:** Spring Break

**April 8:** Unbound Young Adult Book Club will meet at the Walnut Grove Library - 3:30pm

**April 9:** Renee Hanna will perform at the Walnut Grove Library at 11:30am

**April 17-18 and 22-24:** CRCT Testing for elementary and middle school students.

**April 18:** Groovin' on the Green in downtown Loganville at 7:30pm

**April 18:** On-Stage presents the first performance of *The Red Velvet Cake War* (A madcap southern comedy). Visit online at [onstagewalton.org](http://onstagewalton.org) for more info.

## Get on the Right Track with Reading!

Jennifer Roth, Secondary Professional Learning Coach  
Walton County School District

Beth Callahan, Elementary Professional Learning Coach  
Walton County School District

One of the greatest gifts you can share with your child is the love of reading! Whether your child is elementary or high school age, there are many ways that you can encourage your child to become a lifelong reader!

### For the Younger Reader:

- ◆ Set aside time to read to your child: Research shows that young children who are read to at home perform better in school and tend to develop a life-long love of reading.
- ◆ Books + Friends = Fun! When younger children get together, make reading part of the fun!
  1. Encourage them to exchange favorite books. They may discover a new series or types of books that they've never read before.
  2. Encourage them to play "story hour". They can take turns sitting in a chair and being the reader for a pretend audience. Dolls and stuffed animals make a fun audience!
  3. Talking about a book builds skills in reading comprehension. Suggest that your child and his/her friend talk about their favorite parts of a book.
- ◆ Beginning readers are learning to associate letters with sounds. Make a colorful collage! Save cardboard food packages like cereal boxes and cracker boxes. Then, help your child cut out at least a dozen words, and read the words aloud with her/him. Suggest that she/he choose a few that have something in common and glue them on a piece of paper. For example, a younger child could pick cheese, chocolate, and cheddar because they all start with a ch sound. An older child might choose vitamin, iron, and icing because they all have a "long i" sound. Display the collages in the house and add to them with more words from more boxes and packages.
- ◆ Practice the development of phonics skills by saying rhymes and clapping out the syllables of words.
- ◆ Read billboards and signs while in the car.
- ◆ Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines. Some suggestions include *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Highlights for Children*, or *National Geographic World*.

Para una traducción de esta información, póngase en contacto con Eleanor Scott, Coordinador LEP (Limited English Proficiency) (770) 266-4486 correo electrónico: [escott@walton.k12.ga.us](mailto:escott@walton.k12.ga.us)

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School-wide Title I Schools in Walton County School System are: Atha Road Elementary, Harmony Elementary, Carver Middle School, Loganville Elementary, Monroe Area High School, Monroe Elementary, Walker Park Elementary, Walnut Grove Elementary, Walnut Grove High School, and Youth Middle School. Targeted Assistance School in Walton County: Loganville Middle School.



## Get on the Right Track with Reading!

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### For the Older Reader:

- ◆ Have students use Spark Notes to check comprehension and to use as a review for book-length reading assignments. The notes provide a chapter-by-chapter outline of the book and can give students an overview before reading the full-length book.
- ◆ Give teens an opportunity to choose their own books.
- ◆ Build on your teen's interests. Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine. Some technology current events magazines may include *Scientific American*, *Discover Magazine*, *Info-World*, *Invention & Technology*, *Tech News World*, and *Wired*. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.
- ◆ Read some books written for teens. Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
- ◆ Keep the big picture in mind. For all sorts of reasons, some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don't panic! Teens often need a little time as they explore new interests.

### For All Readers:

- ◆ Model good reading habits. If your child sees you reading, then he/she will be more likely to become a reader, too. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Set aside times to turn off the TV and have family reading time.
- ◆ Pleasure reading has value! Almost anything children read, including comic books, help build reading skills.
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud together with your child. Make it fun by reading outdoors or in special places. Children are never too old to be read to!
- ◆ Encourage your child to read nonfiction: Schools are requiring that students read more nonfiction and informational texts in preparation for college and careers. By fourth grade, about half of what students read will be nonfiction. Find out what science and social studies topics are being taught at school. Find out which topics interest your child.
- ◆ Let kids choose what they want to read. Every so often, read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.
- ◆ Encourage reading everywhere - Bring along books in the car, at the doctor's office, etc.
- ◆ Buy audiobooks or check them out at the library. This can be especially helpful for a child with a learning disability. Listen to these recordings in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together at home.

### Active Parenting of Teens: Families in Action For Parents and Teens

Learn how to communicate without fighting, develop real skills for real life, avoid the risks that teens face today, and promote cooperation by enrolling in parenting classes at Advantage Behavioral Health System in Monroe. Sessions are free and are held on Tuesday evenings beginning March 18, 2014 from 5:30-8:00pm. Teens are encouraged to attend with their parents and dinner will be served to those who attend. Email for information at [ljones2@advantagebhs.org](mailto:ljones2@advantagebhs.org) or call 770-267-8302 ext. 18.



### BOOK SALE

The Walnut Grove Library will host a Book Sale beginning Friday, March 28th from 10:00am-7:00pm and runs through Sunday, March 30th. The sale will be held at the Walnut Grove United Methodist Church/Smith Family Life Center at 915 Church Way. Join Friends of the Walnut Grove Library and shop early on Thursday, March 27th. Visit the library website at [www.WalnutGroveFriends.com](http://www.WalnutGroveFriends.com) for more details.

### Affordable Care Act

The deadline to enroll in insurance plans offered by the Affordable Care Act is Monday, March 31st. Clearview Regional Medical Center has certified application counselors available to help you enroll and choose the best plan for you and your family. Call 770-267-8461 for details on enrollment. Clearview is also providing certified application counselors at the Monroe-Walton Public Library on Monday, March 17th, 24th and 31st to assist with enrollment. More information is available at [ClearviewRegionalMedicalCenter.com](http://ClearviewRegionalMedicalCenter.com).

### McKinney-Vento

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- 1 - In a shelter;
- 2 - In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation;
- 3 - In a car, park, abandoned building or bus or train Stations;
- 4 - Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. If you believe your children may be eligible, contact Gina Meadows, Homeless Liaison at 770-266-4508 to find out what services and supports may be available. There may also be supports available for your preschool-age children.

### Boys and Girls Club

The Walton County Boys & Girls Club has opened registration for Summer Camp. Early registration is \$99 per member from March 10<sup>th</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 during this time only. Registration is open Monday-Friday from 2:00pm to 7:00pm at the Club. Registration for ALL starts April 1st. For more information, call or come by the club at 725 S. Madison Ave., Monroe, Ga. 30655 / 770-207-6279.