

## **What's the Big Deal about Reading (in Two Languages)?**

This week is Read Across America Week and we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday as well. It is a great time for us to emphasize the value of reading. But, does it really matter? Does it make a difference? As you can see from the chart above, kids who read for twenty minutes a day score so much better on standardized tests. Kids who read more know more about any content area. They also are better writers because they understand how words work. They try out other author's styles and techniques in their own writing. They also play fewer video games (because they are reading!!) As an immersion school, we certainly value reading in English but we also want to encourage you to help expose your children to more books in Spanish and French. We have a Spanish selection of books in our Book Fair this week. We wish we had a French selection as well, but it is not available (through Scholastic in the US). Here are some options for finding French books:

<https://www.ecoledesloisirs.fr/> and <http://www.scholastic.ca/editions>

Apps: Les Tresors, J'aime lire, Unjourunactu

As we move ahead, know that we will increase the amount of French and Spanish texts in our media center and classroom libraries as well. Our desire is that our children will increase their reading fluency in English as well as French and Spanish. In order to help them become biliterate, they simply need access to books and time to read. That makes all the difference.

Mr. Maness, Principal

P.S. Be sure to read info below about our Read Across America activities each day and our Book Fair.

## **Read Across America Week (Monday, February 25—Friday, March 1)**

This is a fun week where we celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and have a special emphasis on reading. Everyone is invited to participate in each day's activities that are based on a Dr. Seuss book:

**Monday – Fox in Socks Day**--Wear your favorite crazy socks!

**Tuesday – Cat in the Hat Day**--Dress up to match your twin!

**Wednesday – Put Me in the Zoo**--Dress up as your favorite zoo animal!

**Thursday – Oh the Places You'll Go**--Dress up like what you want to be when you grow up!

**Friday – One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**--Dress up as your favorite Dr. Seuss character!

### **Book Fair during Read Across America Week (Monday, February 25-Friday, March 1)**

The Book Fair is coming to Cherry Park Elementary School of Language Immersion. In fact, it will be the first book fair at our new school. Students will be able to shop at the book fair beginning **Monday, February 25** and may do so each day until the fair closes on **Friday, March 1**. The book fair will be open each day from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM. As always, parents are welcome to shop with students during lunch and after school. The link below will take you to our book fair homepage. In addition to the dates and times the book fair will be open, you can keep track of the progress we are making toward the school goal, access an expanded version of the book fair flyer sent home with students, and shop our online fair.

**The online fair is available February 16 – March 8, so you may begin shopping NOW!**

No cash on hand the day of the Book Fair? No worries – Scholastic Book Fairs is now offering Book Fair eWallet as a new payment option. Simply set up an account and have funds immediately available for your child to shop the Book Fair. Safe and secure – it's easy shopping with Book Fair eWallet. Find information about how eWallet works and to set up an account for your child, please visit the book fair homepage:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/cherryparkelementary>

### **Bobcat Birthday Book Club**

Starting next year, we would like to give kids a book for their birthday. We are starting the collection now and you can help by donating a book from the Book Fair if you'd like. See the attached flyer for more information.

### **Let Me Run Coaches Needed**

Help start the Let Me Run program at Cherry Elementary this spring. Our spring season starts mid March and ends with the Let Me Run 5K on May 18th. The practices can be any two non-consecutive days of the week. Coaches can be runners / non-runners, male or female (but we prefer to have at least one male), experienced or not experienced. You just need a sincere desire to help boy improve their fitness and to build their character. Please consider coaching or recruit someone that you think would make a good coach!!!

Let Me Run is a character building / running program for elementary (fourth and fifth grade) and middle school boys similar to the Girls On The Run program. It is a nonprofit wellness program that inspires boys to be themselves, be active, and belong. With a comprehensive curriculum that applies the power of running, the program encourages boys to develop their psychological, emotional and social health, in addition to their physical health. Twice a week for seven weeks, two trained volunteer coaches lead an elementary or middle school team through practice. Designed to amplify confidence, self-expression, and respect for others, each practice includes a lesson from the Let Me Run curriculum that incorporates running, games and activities. Each fall and spring season culminates in a 5K race festival that celebrates the boys' personal growth.

Below is a quick video that describes what Let Me Run is all about, as we are much more than just a running program.

<http://www.letmerun.org/about-the-program/what-is-let-me-run>

To volunteer to coach or for more information, contact our PE teacher, Christi Beard, at [cb Beard@rhmail.org](mailto:cb Beard@rhmail.org). You can also contact Don Rice [donr@letmerun.org](mailto:donr@letmerun.org) at 704-743-8755 for more information.

### **Advance-Ed Parent Survey**

Our school is preparing for an accreditation review by a team of educators from the AdvancED organization. For the AdvancED review team to assess our continuous improvement, we must gather information from our parents, students, and staff. To assist us in this effort, please take a few moments to complete this brief survey by **Monday, February 25**. We appreciate your time and continued support of our school.

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/86548/p2089>

**Winthrop Back the Pack Basketball Game**—Thanks so much for everyone who came!!! We had 247 people there and as a result, we won \$1000 which will go to our PTO for money to get started. We are so proud of Ethan Lindemann who represented CPES in the halftime basketball musical chairs game.

### **First Grade French Immersion Next Fall**

Please help pass on the word to other families that we are going to allow a limited number of new students to join our First Grade French classes next fall. Current kindergarten students who are not at CPESOLI can apply for First Grade French Immersion for next fall. They must complete the application by **this Thursday, February 28**. Limited slots are available. (This is only for French Immersion in first grade for next year.)

### **School of Choice Calendar**

The application window closes **this Thursday, February 28!!** If you have a rising kindergarten student who has a sibling already in the immersion program, you need to complete a School of

Choice application. Rising K5 students who have siblings already in the program are grandfathered into the program if an application is filled out during the application window. You can go to the [School of Choice Webpage](#) to complete the application. Please tell friends and neighbors about our program.

## **Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council Update**

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. We had a great meeting last week and minutes from the meeting were sent out earlier this week. We will meet again on **Monday, March 18 at 6:30 PM** to continue organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Cherry Park Elementary Library starting in January. Meeting dates have been set for the following Mondays at 6:30 PM for the rest of the year: **April 22 and May 20. Our School Improvement Council will meet on the same days at 5:30 PM** in the Office Conference Room. All parents are invited to attend either or both meetings. Both groups are working on bylaws and have started organizational efforts. There will be a table at Open House to sign up for PTO and to volunteer. **We would like to have at least one representative from each of the schools on the PTO Leadership Team** so we can take the best ideas from all the PTO's and put them into practice for our CPES PTO. The group at PTO divided into committees to work on Bylaws, Fundraising, Volunteers and Teacher Appreciation. We hope you can come and join one of these subcommittees. Here is the link if you wish to receive the PTO Newsletter:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ffeepurl.com%2FghLsUj&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpmaness%40rhmail.org%7C86c7b468d60e47e7bc6408d698d1dd08%7C57b835c11a6c40088e2fb2a16e5f738a%7C0%7C0%7C636864424472780226&amp;sdata=mPE0idItkxHbbBFMdR3NqMJRd5aMOH7ANFPB0OcQuWA%3D&amp;reserved=0>

## **Got Questions?**

Attached are answers for our Transition FAQ. Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and will be answered on our FAQ page on our school website as well.

## **Calendar Dates**

Monday, February 25-Friday, March 1—Book Fair

Thursday, February 28—Last day for completing a School of Choice Application

Monday, March 18—Teacher Workday/Student Holiday

Friday, March 22—Report Cards Go Home

April 15-19—Spring Break

May 24—Kindergarten through Second Grade Field Day (in the morning)

May 31—Third through Fifth Grades Field Day (all day)

**Attachments:**

[Read Across America Week.pdf](#) (99.7 KB)

[Bobcat's Birthday Book Club - Book Fair Drive.pdf](#) (680.8 KB)

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