

Rocky Mountain Grizzly News

May 2021



From the Principal's Desk

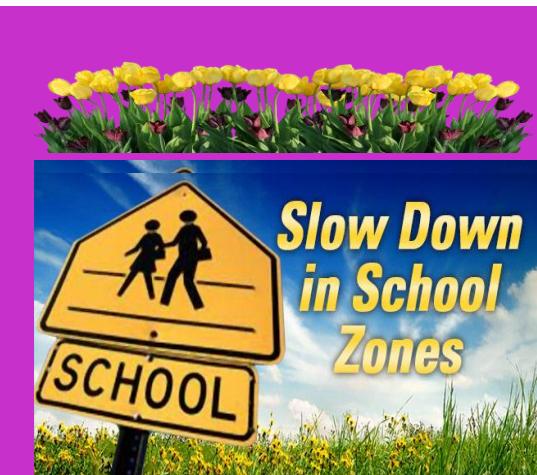
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

A huge thank you to the parents who were able to make their interview times this week. It is important to keep the lines of communication open as we all have the same goal; to help your child be successful! If you were not able to make your assigned time, please contact the teacher to set up another time to talk.

Please remember to perform your daily health checks with your children before sending them to school. It is very important that they do not come to school if they have any of the COVID symptoms. Unfortunately, COVID is still a huge issue, and we want to do our best to keep our community safe.

Thank you again for all of your support and patience while we navigate a stressful, hard year.

Ms. L. Ehman



School Zone Safety

School Zone Safety is always a top priority in any school, we have a few reminders that we put out each year...

- **DO NOT** pick up or drop off students in the school parking lot. The parking lot is a busy place in the mornings and after school. So for everyone's safety, please drop off students above the school on Deerborne Dr. or along the school on Balmer Dr. (during school hours)
- Keep your speed down to 30 km/hr



PAC MEETING

The next PAC meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 18th @ 7:00 pm. This meeting will be the yearly AGM and everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Parents who are involved in the school statistically have students who do better in school. When children know that school is important to their parents, then they see that it is important too.

Please consider joining our meeting, and possibly joining the PAC. Many hands make for lighter work for everyone.

Thank you and hope to see you at the AGM! A zoom link will be sent out closer to the date from the PAC.



REGISTRATION:

We are well underway with our planning for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are planning to move and your children will not be returning in the fall, please let the school know.

If you know of new families moving into Elkford, please advise them to contact the school, as quickly as possible, to register for the fall.

Kindergarten registration is on-going, and it is very important that all families with students entering kindergarten register early. We will be hosting a mandatory parent meeting on May 26th so please be sure to register before then if possible so that you receive the invitation for the meeting.

Health Checks

It is very important that health checks are completed every morning so that we can keep our students and community safe and healthy.

READING TIPS:

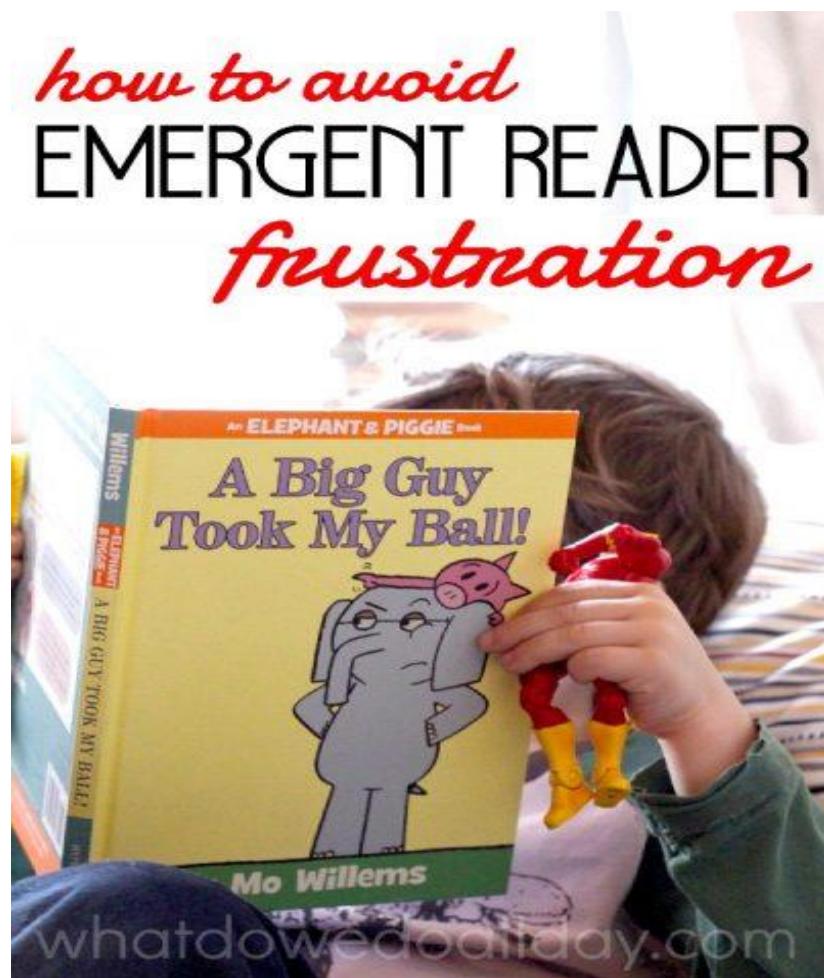
10 ALTERNATIVES TO FORCING YOUR KIDS TO LEARN TO READ

Does your child hate learning to read?

Mine does!

There is so much advice out there about raising readers and for my first child I mostly ignored it. Not because it wasn't good advice. It was! It's just that my older son taught himself to read at the tender age of 3 and has since become a voracious reader. So, I didn't have to do anything.

However, it has been clear for a long time that I would not have the same experience with my youngest son.



I am, in fact, not enjoying teaching my almost 6-year-old how to read.

Oh, that is a horrible thing to admit. But I'm just being honest!! A large part of the problem is that he does not like to do things that aren't easy. Even though I know I have given him a good foundation for literacy by including [rhyming games](#), [phonetic awareness](#), and even [poetry into our daily lives](#), I struggle with my own impatience. I have to work very hard to keep a smile on my face.

For a short time, my son seemed amendable to learning how to read. I searched out [books that were actually easy](#) and he's even read a few of them (*with help*) to me. But recently he has decided he hates sounding out words. If he doesn't know the word by sight he doesn't even want to try. Personally, I think it is okay if he doesn't have reading fluency for another year or so and I have scaled my active teaching way, way back. (*Note: My son was clearly a typically developing reader. If you ever have concerns you should consult with a literacy specialist.*)

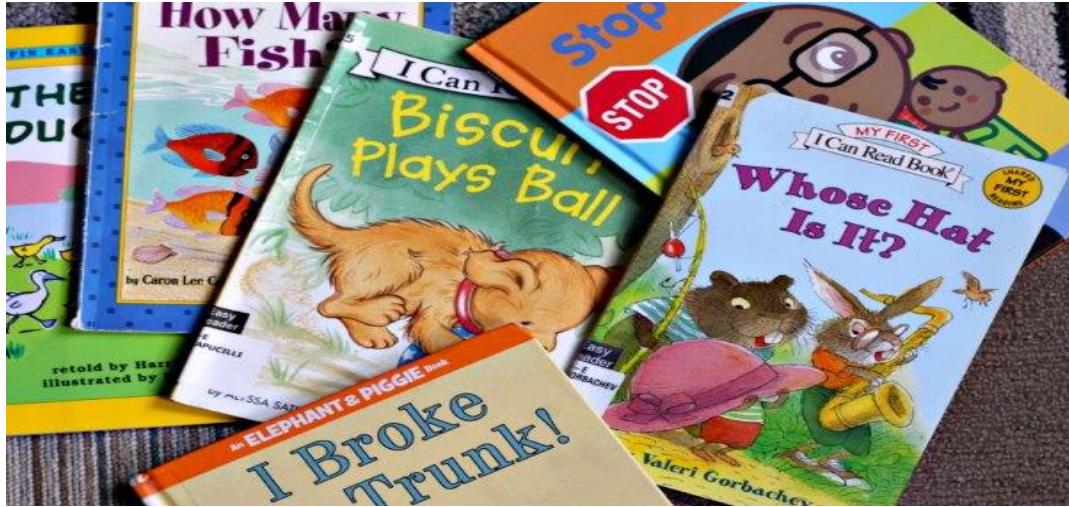
That doesn't mean I'm not finding ways to convince him to learn to read! **Here's what I'm doing to avoid burnout:** (Note: book titles are affiliate links.)

Make the home a text rich environment, and not just books. Put up signs. Put up poems. Add magnet words to doors and walls. I highly recommend [The Write Start](#) as a resource for more ideas. The book is geared towards raising kids who love to write, but we all know reading and writing go hand in hand.

Reading wordless picture books. My son loves to read the same wordless book over and over. This is excellent for learning story structure and looking for layers of meaning. For the past week, we've been "reading" [Quest](#) repeatedly. See my [tips for making the most out of wordless books](#) (*I draw heavily on my theatrical training*).

Get siblings involved. My two sons do not always see eye to eye, but sometimes when I bring home a book they both can't wait to read I ask Kiddo to read it aloud to his younger brother. Kiddo is a hero in his brother's eyes and I'm going to use it to my advantage!

Do not read bad books. Okay. This one is going to get me some hate mail. Plus, it goes against all the advice out there that says to read what your kid wants, even if it is a book about Pokémon or Disney Princesses (*I can at least avoid that latter, although there was a Frozen easy reader I had to read before my kid "discovered" that Frozen was for girls [insert eye roll]*). However, I have also read a lot of advice that tells a mama to take care of herself. For me that means limiting the mindless dribble I read. Yes, I still read license characters books, *if they are short*. The longer ones I call "looking at books". And you know what, he doesn't complain. He looks at them for hours. I don't insult the books, or criticize him for wanting them, but I read (*mostly*) good books and he can have one on one time with Pikachu, or LEGO Han Solo or Spiderman. When he learns to read, he can read those books as much as he wants, but I must keep my sanity.



When reading aloud, take an extra long pause before a word. I have to be casual about this so my son doesn't catch on, but if I pause long enough, he gets impatient and I see him looking at the word to figure it out.

Read interactive books. [Press Here](#) is a personal favorite and lift the flap books like [Flora and the Flamingo](#) are another good choice. These books, along with wordless books, emphasize how reading is not a passive sport.

Have your child read only the easy words. One of my current strategies is to ask him to read a single word that is repeated throughout the book. For example, if the book uses "cat" over and over, I will run my finger along the text as I read, stopping at the word "cat" and then let him read that word. Elephant & Piggie are great for this. In [I Broke My Trunk!](#), for example, I would point to the word, "trunk".

Model sounding out words. Instead of making him sound out the whole word, which he HATES, I ask him the sound of the last letter. For example: CAT. I say, "ca.. what's that sound?" while pointing to the "t". He makes the t sound and I finish sounding out the word.

Listen to audiobooks. Here's a [list of our favorite audiobooks](#).

Just read aloud. We all know it. Reading aloud begets readers. Eventually.

I want to end this post, by saying I am not a literacy professional. I know many parents may not agree with my mostly hands-off strategy. To be perfectly honest, I'm pretty sure I'll change my approach as my son's attitude changes. We all know kids love to change their opinions daily! [Right now my goal is to increase my son's desire to learn to read, without stressing either of us out.](#)

Come Do Math and Money with Me

Tues, May 11th
7:00-8:30 pm

Take the stress out of math at home! Join us over Zoom to learn some skills to support your child's math and money skills.

This is a free workshop and each family receives a package of materials!

Email Alison Facey at afacey@cbal.org or call 250-420-7596 to register and receive the Zoom link.

Learning
TOGETHER



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

Alison Facey, Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator



afacey@cbal.org



250-420-7596



www.cbal.org



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Columbia Basin **trust**

Come Do Math and Money with Me!



Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm



What will you learn? Parents and caregivers of Grade 1 students will learn how to incorporate math and money into their children's daily lives.

What will your child get? Your child will receive a kit with math puzzles and other math activities. The kit will be delivered to your child's school on or before May 11.

***PLEASE NOTE:** this program requires registration. After you have returned the slip below to your child's school, you will be emailed a link to register. Once you have registered, your child will receive a kit delivered to their school. You will receive a Zoom link on or before May 11.

X-----

Please return this part to the school by Monday, May 3, 2021. Thank you!

Parent's name	
Child's name	
Teacher's name	
School's name	
Parent's email	

SafeArrival and SchoolMessenger

Things to Remember:

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

- Using your mobile device, download and install the [SchoolMessenger app](#) from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
- Use the [SafeArrival website](#). The first time you use the website, select [Sign Up](#) to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
- Call the toll-free number **1-(833) 566-1225** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our district will also utilize the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number:

For **CANADA-BASED** numbers: **978338**

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

For **CANADA-BASED** numbers:



*If your number is Canada-based.

Opt-In from your mobile now!

Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 978338.



If you are having problems with this app try logging out, then log back in again. If that does not fix the problem, delete the app and down load it again.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, May 7 – Crazy Hair or Hat Day

Tuesday, May 18 – PAC AGM Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 19 – Class Photo Day

Friday, May 21 & Monday, May 24 – No School – Victoria Day Long Weekend

Wednesday, May 26 – Kindergarten Orientation 6:00 pm



School District #5 Calendar for 2020-2021 can be found at:

<https://www.sd5.bc.ca/AboutUs/calendar/Documents/2020.2021%20approved%20calendar.pdf>



School District 5

2020-2021 Annual School Calendar

July 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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School Breaks

Professional Development Days

Stat Holidays

Administrative Day

Second Semester


School District 5
2021-2022 Annual School Calendar

July 2021						
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August 2021						
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March 2022						
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April 2022						
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May 2022						
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June 2022						
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School Breaks
 Stat Holidays

Professional Development Days
 Administrative Day

Second Semester Starts/1st day of Q3 (if necessary)