

Cedarville Connection

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A Message From Dr. Bakle-How to Get Your Mind to Read

Did you know that Americans are not considered good readers? Many blame digital media. We're too busy on Snapchat to read, or perhaps internet skimming has made us incapable of focused reading. The trouble with reading predates digital technologies. The problem is not bad reading habits because of smartphones, but bad habits engendered by a misunderstanding of how the mind reads.

Many of these poor readers can sound out words from print, so in that sense, they can read. Yet they comprehend very little of what they can sound out. What comprehension requires is a strong vocabulary. Equally important, though, is the role played by factual knowledge.

Quite frequently content read has factual gaps that must be filled by the reader. Consider this excerpt... "The diamondback **terrapin** is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world that lives exclusively in brackish water (containing some salt, but not as much as ocean water), habitats like tidal marshes, estuaries and lagoons. Most **terrapins** hibernate during the winter by burrowing into the mud of marshes" The author has omitted facts vital to comprehension.

Prior knowledge and the organization of that knowledge (schema) provides this understanding. For example, considering the word "terrapin". If you are a University of Maryland fan you more than likely know that a terrapin is related to a turtle. Having that knowledge allows you to best understand what you are reading compared to someone that does not. A visual image comes to mind.

Reading comprehension is misunderstood by many. It's treated like a general skill that can be applied with equal success to all texts. Rather, comprehension is intimately intertwined with knowledge.

As families, do your best to expose your children to text and life experiences to deepen their understanding of new knowledge.



Upcoming Events

December 6

Christmas Family Gifts due
(Wrapped with ornament attached)

December 7

2nd Gr Winter Music Program
(2:30 pm/6:30 pm)

December 12

3rd Gr Winter Music Program
(2:30 pm/6:30 pm)

December 19

Class Holiday Parties

December 19

Last day of collections for
Leo UM Food Bank

December 21 – January 3

Winter Break

Lunch Menu This Week

Monday- Chicken Tenders or
Yogurt

Tuesday- Breaded Mozz
Sticks or PBJ

Wednesday- Orange
Chicken or Yogurt

Thursday- BBQ Pulled Pork
Sandwich or Mini Corn Dogs
or PBJ

Friday- Pizza Wedge or PBJ

Polar Express Shopping Experience



The students of Cedarville and Leo Elementary enjoyed lots of fun while shopping in the Polar Express! Thank you to our amazing PTO for all their hard work throughout the year to make this so special for the students!

Christmas Families

Wrapped Gifts are due by tomorrow December 6th. Thank you to everyone who participated in helping others have a joyous holiday season!



Food Bank Donations
Please send in now through
December 19th



In the Community



Santa Night/Grand Opening of the new Park Building

Location: Park Building
9825 St. Joseph St.
Leo-Cedarville Park

Date: Friday December 8

Time: 5-7pm

Fee: Canned good donation for Grabill food bank

Call: 260-627-6321 Ext. 1

Come and bring your family to visit Santa, decorate cookies, drink hot chocolate and tour the new park building at Leo-Cedarville Park.