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D.E.A.R.

Family



**Bayonne Board of Education
May 2007**



Bayonne Board of Education
669 Avenue A
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

May 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As a continuation of our 2006-2007 literacy theme, *Reading Counts*, Bayonne elementary students will participate in D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything And Read) on Friday, May 25, 2007. Principal, students, teachers, and support staff will read at 2:30 P.M.

Parents can do lots of things at home to encourage reading. Reading aloud to your children is only one of them. Another is setting aside regular time for family reading, even just 10 to 15 minutes a day. Setting a good example — letting your kids see *you* reading — is very helpful.

Creating a literacy-rich home requires a good supply of things to read. Newspapers, magazines, books, and other reading materials should be within easy reach of the whole family. It doesn't matter if reading materials are owned or borrowed, new or used — what's important is that they are in your home and a natural part of everyday life.

I am extremely proud that our Book Buddies Literacy Program continues to be highly successful. Since September 2006, elementary students have read 212,992 books...a major milestone in promoting literacy!

Please review the *D.E.A.R. Family* reading tips with your child.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L. McGeehan".

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

D.E.A.R. Family

(as excerpted from www.dropeverythingandread.com)

Designate a special time for family reading. Whether it is books at bedtime or stories after supper, a reading routine becomes something everyone can look forward to.

Encourage your child's reading. Praise the efforts of your soon-to-be or beginning reader. Make sure that the busy schedules of older readers include time for reading for pleasure.

Allow kids to choose books they are interested in reading or having read aloud. Be aware of your child's interests and abilities and make a variety of reading materials easily accessible.

Register for a library card. If you already have one, use it frequently! Take advantage of library programs or library book clubs.

Develop a reading-rich environment at home. Furnish your house with books, newspapers, and magazines. Make sure there are also comfortable places to read with good lighting.

Everyday opportunities for reading abound. From the cereal box at breakfast, to the road signs on the way to school, to the note in the lunchbox, to the board game instructions, to the recipe for dinner—words are everywhere! Take the time to point them out or ask your child to read them to you.

Ask questions when you are sharing books together. Engage your children in discussions about the books you read and help them relate to the characters or situations. Share your own feelings and invite kids to do the same.

Remember, children want to do what the grownups do. So if parents just drop everything and read, the kids will want to be a part of it!