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*Building A Caring Learning Community ...  
... Everyone Counts In Our Success ...*



*..... To Create A Spirit Of Excellence!*



**Bayonne Board of Education**  
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**Home for the Holidays**



**Celebrate Reading!**

**Bayonne Board of Education  
December 2006**



**Bayonne Board of Education**

669 Avenue A

Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

December 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Seasons Greetings to you and your entire family!

The Bayonne Public Schools will be closed from December 23, 2006 through January 1, 2007. During the school recess, I urge all parents/guardians to give an important gift to your child...the gift of reading! Books make a wonderful gift, whether it is for a holiday, birthday, or just because! A great idea would be to write a special message on the inside cover, along with the date and your name, which the recipient can treasure forever.

This is the third year of the Bayonne School District's highly successful literacy initiative, *Bayonne Book Buddies Program*. Since April 2005, students in grades Pre-K through eight have read 365,072 books! This is a major milestone in the district's goal to promote a love of reading across the curriculum.

Please review these important reading tips. Together we can build a community of lifelong readers!

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year! Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

*Patricia L. McGeehan*

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

**8 Ways Parents Can Promote Reading At Home**

(reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care-NNCC.(1993). Eight ways parents can promote reading at home. In M. Lopes (Ed.) *CareGiver News* (April, insert). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension)

- 1. Read yourself.** Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.
- 2. Make sure your children read every day.** Reading - like shooting baskets and playing the piano - is a skill., and gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun - whether they read books, newspapers, or magazines - develop the skills to be better readers at school.
- 3. Get the library habit.** Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library. While you are there, check out a book yourself!
- 4. Read aloud to the children.** Research shows this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers.
  - Start reading to your children when they are young. It is never too early to begin reading to your children.
  - Don't stop reading to your children as they grow older. You will both enjoy the chance to do something together.
  - Set aside some time each day for reading aloud. Even 10 minutes a day can have a big impact. Bedtime is a natural reading aloud time. Other busy families read aloud at breakfast or just after dinner.
  - Read books you enjoy. Your kids will know if you are faking it.
- 5. Use your newspaper to encourage reading** by having a scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of things to find in today's newspaper, i.e. a map of the United States, a picture of your child's favorite athlete, the temperature in the city where a family member lives, three words that begin with "w", a movie that is playing at a nearby theater.
- 6. Give books as gifts.** Then find a special place for your children to keep their own library.
- 7. Make reading a privilege.** Say, "You can stay up 15 minutes later tonight if you read in bed." Or you might say, "Because you helped with the dishes, I have time to read you an extra story."
- 8. If you are not a good reader, you can still encourage your children.** As your children learn to read, ask them to read to you. Talk about the books your children have read. Ask a friend or relative to read aloud to your children.