

# SAGE PAGE UPDATE

Sage Hills Elementary \* 3033 Swainson Ave \* 801-610-8723

## MARCH:

- 1-16 PTA SpellCheck
- 2 Dr. Seuss Night 6:30-7:30
- 5-19 Battle of the Books
- 7 SCC @ 4pm
- 9 SpellCheck Test
- 14 1<sup>st</sup> grade field trip
- 15 5<sup>th</sup> grade Space Center
- 16 5<sup>th</sup> grade Space Center
- 16 SpellCheck Pledges due
- 19 PTA Meeting @ 10am
- 22 6<sup>th</sup> grade Space Center
- 22 Parent Curriculum Mtg.  
6:00 pm
- 23 6<sup>th</sup> grade Space Center
- 26 Minimal Monday  
Kindergarten Buses  
run 20 min earlier  
K AM: 8-10am  
K PM: 11:45-1:45  
Grades 1-6:  
Track A: 8-12:30  
Track B: 9:15-1:45

## APRIL:

- 4 SCC @ 4pm
- 9-13 Spring Break **NO SCHOOL**
- 16 PTA Meeting @ 10am
- 16 CRT TESTING Begins  
grades 3-6
- 19 Spring Pictures
- 23 Kindergarten Bean  
Museum here
- 27 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip



## Principal's Message

**Parents, 20 minutes each day  
is all it takes  
to help our Thunderhawks  
soar with grace!**

Dear Parents,

Just 20 minutes each day reading aloud with children strengthens relationships, encourages listening and language skills, promotes attention and curiosity, and establishes a strong reading foundation. Reading skills are essential for success in school and in life. Once a child begins to read, it is essential to continue reading aloud together. Like other skills, reading is mastered over time, with lots of practice, and with the help of another person.

We are requesting parental help and support each night with all students grades Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We want our children at Sage Hills to be successful readers. They need to practice reading aloud for 20 minutes each night with a parent. It is crucial and vital that we work together to promote a literate generation. Make reading together the most important - and happiest - 20 minutes of your day!

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

— Emilie Buchwald

### **20 Minutes A Day**

**Read to your children  
Twenty minutes a day;  
You have the time,  
And so do they.**

**Read while the laundry is in the machine;  
Read while dinner cooks;  
Tuck a child in the crook of your arm  
And reach for the library books.**

**Hide the remote,  
Let the computer games cool,  
For one day your child will be off to school;  
Read in the morning,  
Read over noon,  
Read by the light of  
*Goodnight Moon.***

**Turn the pages together,  
Sitting close as you'll fit,  
'Till a small voice beside you says,  
"Hey, don't quit."  
~Author Unknown**

[www.utahkidsreadytoread.org](http://www.utahkidsreadytoread.org)

<http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/florida/teachers>

**\*\* Due to changes in Terracycle's Policies we will not longer be collecting Capri Sun Containers, thank you for your support!\*\***

Utah County Health Department will provide immunizations for individuals age four and up at the following schools:

Vista Heights Middle School  
March 6 from 3-6 PM  
American Fork Junior High School  
March 15 from 5-7 PM

Insurance plans can be billed. For those who don't have insurance or insurance that doesn't cover childhood vaccinations, UCHS can provide flu shots for \$10 and Tdap immunizations for \$14. Appointments are not necessary and individuals will be seen on a first-come/first-served basis.

For more information about other immunization opportunities through the Utah County Health Department, please visit their website.

## Track Requests for Next Year...

Track request dates: March 19<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>

Track request forms will be sent home with every student on March 16<sup>th</sup>. A form will need to be filled out and returned for each student.

**\*\*Parents and students are responsible for turning the forms into the office. School will not be responsible for forms not turned into the office.**

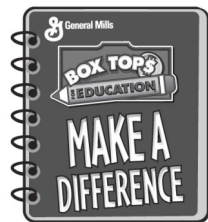
**We will date and number request forms as they are returned.\*\***

We must consider many different facets when organizing classes. **The following will be considered before any parent requests are considered:**

1. Matching special student needs with teacher abilities and strengths.
2. Organizing classes that are academically balanced to best meet the needs of each child.
3. Separating students who do not interact well when assigned to the same classroom.
4. Distributing the total number of students equitably between classes on each grade level.
5. Balancing tracks
6. Organizing classes that are gender balanced.
7. Parent requests for special needs and academic reasons only.

Sage Hills is not a Teacher Request school.

Keep turning your Box Tops in at the Library! We are doing great! This month we will be purchasing several classroom book sets that the teachers can check out and use in their classes. There will be a popsicle party in April to reward the kids for collecting so many box tops! Thank You for clipping your boxtops!



## SpellCheck



I hope everyone received the packet about Spellcheck from or her students early this week.

We are really excited for this Fundraiser it was extremely successful last year raising \$2500 with 30% or less of the students participating. We really hope that everyone will participate this year. This Fundraiser makes it possible for the PTA to put on programs at no cost to you, such as the Valentines Dance, Hogwarts, Reflections, Polar Express, Dr Seuss, etc.

If you have any questions please read the blog about Spellcheck

[Sagehills.blogspot.com/Spellcheck-2012](http://Sagehills.blogspot.com/Spellcheck-2012)

Come to our 1<sup>st</sup>  
Annual Read Across  
America read-a-thon  
to celebrate Dr.  
Seuss's birthday!



**This** Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from  
6:30 - 7:30pm in the gym.  
Bring some comfy blankets,  
your favorite Dr. Seuss  
books & your  
best reading voice to share  
some reading time with your  
family & friends!  
**Prizes & treats provided!**

### Battle of the Books Information:

The time has come . . . time to battle. Students in grades 3rd-6th have been reading and reading and reading . . . books to prepare for battle. Each student participating is on a team. Teams were formed last in October. These teams will participate in two qualifying battles, beginning March 5th - all during the week. The two scores of each battle will be added together to make one score. The teams will then be seeded into brackets for the next week's single elimination battles.



Every student participating gets a smelly bookmark. The top 2 teams of each group: 3rd/4th & 5th/6th grades - will battle for 1st and 2nd place in an assembly on Monday, March 19th. The students on each of the top 2 teams will receive trophies. There will also be an All-Star team per group. These teams are made up of the top 8 students who have read the most books in each group. Each All-Star member will get a BOB t-shirt. These teams will battle against a faculty team in the assembly on Monday also. The winner of the All-Star/Faculty team will win a book of their choice.

I am in need of volunteers - anyone interested and willing to help is invited - come be judges for the battles. It is simple . . . you will either read a set questions or keep time & score.

Days and times needing volunteers:

6 volunteers - Monday, March 5th at 10:30-11:30  
2 volunteers - Tuesday, March 6th at 10:30-11:00  
2 volunteers - Thursday, March 8th at 1:45 - 2:15 (this is for Mr. Perkins class)

12 volunteers - Monday, March 12th at 9:30 - 11:30  
12 volunteers - Tuesday, March 13th at 9:30 - 11:00  
8 volunteers - Wednesday, March 14th at 9:30 - 11:00  
4 volunteers - Thursday, March 15th at 9:30 - 11:00

Please sign up on [sagehills.blogspot.com](http://sagehills.blogspot.com)

Thanks! Mrs. Allen

If you would like to receive updates via e-mail please visit our blog at [sagehills.blogspot.com](http://sagehills.blogspot.com) and **FOLLOW BY EMAIL** in the right hand corner.

### PTA Notes:

Many thanks to the committee that put on the Sock Hop. It was a great night! Those that came had a great time! Thanks to Matt Luke for DJ'ing. He did a great job! We are excited for Dr. Seuss Night coming up this Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> -- it is sure to be a great night!

- Sage Hills PTA

## Cookie Dough Fundraiser

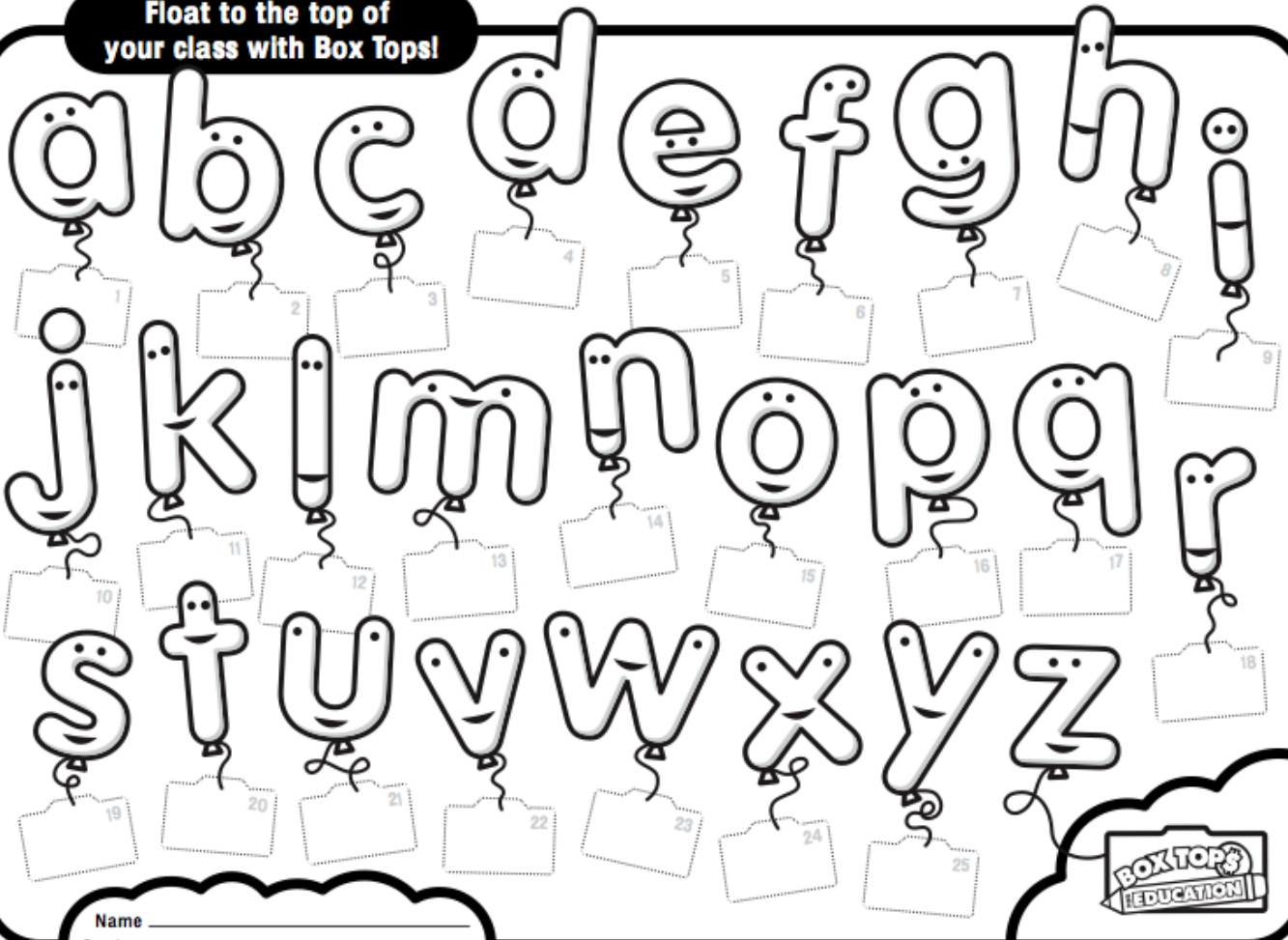
Kick off assembly is on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Packets will be coming home that day.

Sales will run through March 30<sup>th</sup>. The cookie dough will be delivered to us at the school May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Students that sell 15 tubs/boxes of cookie dough will spend 10 seconds in the money machine.

Funds for this fundraiser will go towards technology, PE equipment, and field trips.

Float to the top of  
your class with Box Tops!



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.  
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to [www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)

**Read It and Win!**

February winner:  
Caroline Peterson  
in Mrs. Dibb's class

Please fill out and have your child  
turn into the office. We will be giving  
the winning student a \$5.00 Wal-  
Mart gift card.

When is Parent Curriculum Meeting?

\_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Curriculum Meeting**

We invite all parents to come to join us on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-7:00 to learn more about the new National Core Curriculum the State of Utah and Alpine School District will be adopting.



# 10 Reasons Why You Should Read to Your Kids

As a parent, you have the power to boost your children's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives.

**A stronger relationship with you.** Snuggling up with a book lets the two of you slow down and recapture that personal relationship. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring you closer together.

**Academic excellence.** One of the primary benefits of reading to children is a higher aptitude for learning in general.

**Basic speech skills.** Reading helps a child learn critical language and enunciation skills. By listening to you read, basic language sounds are reinforced.

**The basics of how to read a book.** Children aren't born with an innate knowledge that text is read from left to right, or that the words on a page are separate from the images. Essential pre-reading skills like these are among the major benefits of early reading.

**Better communication skills.** When you spend time reading, children will be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way. By witnessing the interactions between the characters in the books you read, as well as the contact with you during story time, your child is gaining valuable communication skills.

**Mastery of language.** Early reading for small children has been linked to a better grasp of the fundamentals of language as they approach school age.

**More logical thinking skills.** Another illustration of the importance of reading to children is their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic in various scenarios, recognize cause and effect, and utilize good judgment.

**Acclamation to new experiences.** As your child approaches a major developmental milestone or a potentially stressful experience, sharing a relevant story is a great way to help ease the transition. For instance, if your little one is nervous about starting school, reading a story dealing with this topic shows her that her anxiety is normal.

**Enhanced concentration and discipline.** Along with reading comprehension comes a stronger self-discipline, longer attention span, and better memory retention, all of which will serve your child well.

**The knowledge that reading is fun!** Reading with your child helps them view books as an indulgence, not a chore. Kids who are exposed to reading are much more likely to choose books over video games, television, and other forms of entertainment as they grow older.



## 8 WAYS PARENTS CAN PROMOTE READING AT HOME

~Marilyn Lopes

As a parent, you are your child's first - and most important - teacher. Here are eight ways you can help your child become a better reader.

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. Like other skills, it gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun 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.

4. Read aloud to the children. In *\*The Read Aloud Handbook\**, Jim Trelease reports on research showing that this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers. Here are some tips from the book:

- 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 child as they grow older. You will both enjoy the chance to do something together.
- Set aside some time each day for reading aloud.

5. Here is a way to **use your newspaper to encourage reading**: a scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of things to find in today's newspaper. Here are some ideas:

- 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.



# Fun ways to read with your child

**You have a big influence on your child when you read together. Learn how to make the most of this special time.**

Experts in child literacy are unanimous in their belief that parents should read with their children. The power of the parent-child bond has a positive effect on a child's attitude toward reading and his ability to read. Try the suggestions below to help make reading with your child both a pleasure and a learning experience.

**1. Choose the right book using the "five-finger rule."** Have your child open the book to any page in the middle of the book and read that page. Each time she comes across a word she does not know, she should hold up a finger. If she gets to five fingers before she finishes reading the page, the book is too hard. If she doesn't hold up any fingers, the book is probably easy for your child and can be used to build reading fluency. If she holds up two or three fingers, the book is likely to be at a good level for her reading to grow.

**2. Use sound strategies to tackle a new word.**

- Ask your child to sound out an unknown word. Look at the letters in a difficult word and have your child pronounce each sound, or phoneme. Then see if he can blend the sounds together to pronounce the word.
- Help him memorize irregular words. Explain that words like *where*, *hour*, or *sign* are hard to sound out since they don't follow normal sound patterns. Point these words out when you're reading to help your child learn to recognize them on his own.
- Use suffixes, prefixes, and root words. If your child knows the word *day*, guide him to define new words like *yesterday* or *daily*. Similarly, if he knows what *pre-* means, it's easy to learn new words like *prepare* or *preschool*.

**3. Use the story to help your child learn.**

- Ask your child what word or idea would make sense in the plot of the story when she gets stuck on an unfamiliar word.
- Encourage your child to look at illustrations, pictures, titles, or graphs to figure out the meaning of new words.

**4. Give support and encouragement.**

- Challenge your child to figure out new words, but always supply the word before he becomes frustrated.
- After your child has read a story, reread it aloud yourself so that he can enjoy it without interruption.

**5. Be a good role model.** Let your child see you reading, and share your excitement when you enjoy a great book of your own.

**6. Make reading a priority.** Whether it's 10 minutes every night before bed or an hour every Sunday morning, it helps to set aside a specific time for reading. This kind of special "together time" can go a long way toward getting your child interested in books.

**7. Create the right atmosphere.** Find a quiet comfortable place to listen to your child read. While you don't need to build a special reading nook, it helps to ensure that, even in a busy home, there's a quiet place for reading.

**8. Make reading fun.** Kids may not get excited about the idea of quiet time spent curled up on the couch. Why not make it fun by turning reading sessions into impromptu [theater performances](#)? Play around with funny voices to impersonate animals or unusual characters in stories. You'll get to release some tension, and your child will learn to think of reading as fun rather than work.

**9. Keep reading aloud to your child.** Don't stop reading aloud to your child once she learns to read by herself. When you read to her, you let your child enjoy books that are beyond her independent reading level and build her vocabulary by exposing her to new words. Reading aloud is also a chance for you to model reading smoothly and with expression.

**10. Introduce new books.** Each year there is one book that seems to steal the hearts and minds of all children. While it may seem like the only book your child wants to read, it's important to remember that there are millions of books that will suit your child's interests and capture his imagination.