

May 16, 2024

Blog – The Importance of Reading

As I walk by the classrooms, I get to see so many things happening each day. It is fun to see the excitement taking place and hearing about the field trips that either have already been completed or are about to take place in the near future. I can tell that individuals are getting ready for the end of the school year because I see the calendar count-down either on the outside bulletin board or on the number chart in a classroom. If the students are correct, when this blog gets posted we should have about fifteen (15) days left in the school year. However, even though we are approaching the end of a school year, we are always on the pathway to learning.

As summer approaches, I would like to remind everyone about the importance of reading. I feel that reading is a skill that helps us in many ways. It opens us up to new knowledge, new worlds, and new ways to look at the world around us. I find that reading opens up new ways for me to look at situations and topics. I regularly read educational journals because they often offer new ways for me to look at situations going on across our State and nation. These journals also provide examples of how different schools have approached solving various issues that are common in education. I have often stated that a person does not need to have all the answers, rather a person needs to know where to look to help find possible answers and solutions. I have found that reading is one way of acquiring this information.

As a child, I was an avid reader. I had a huge collection of comic books and remember riding my bike to the drug store each month to buy the latest editions of Spiderman, the Avengers and the other super hero comics. I also read books about famous people and far off places. I found that reading opened up places and adventures that let me experience a world that was quite different from the farm I grew up on in Northwestern Wisconsin. As an adult, I would read to each of our children, Kristin and Erik, every night. This allowed me some one on one time with each of my children and also gave us an opportunity to explore new worlds together. I remember reading the “Little House on the Prairie” and “Anne of Green Gables” series with my daughter and tales of mythology with my son. I believe that reading to my children each night helped them develop their vocabulary and provided them an example of the importance of reading.

I am still a reader and read something either for work or personal growth each day. As a past English teacher, I know that one of the best ways to become a better writer is to read. I also know that one of the best skills that we can give our young people today is the ability to communicate effectively – and I believe that one way we can help them become better communicators is to help them develop their reading and writing skills. So I hope that during these next several months while we are on summer break that you will encourage your children to take time each day to read something – a comic book, magazine, short story or novel. It is not as important what they read as it is that they develop the habit of reading. I hope that each of you enjoy the days that are left during this school year and that when summer arrives you will take a few moments to read a good book!

