

Washington D. Smyser Accelerated School

"A Premier Public School!"

Family Literacy Night



May 27, 2009

Mr. Travlos, Principal

Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal

Mission and Vision

- M- Our mission is to make Smyser School a great place to learn by emphasizing the needs of all students (general, gifted, bilingual and special needs including social, emotional and intellectual growth) through a rich and rewarding literacy and critical thinking curriculum, integrating technology and fostering an appreciation for the arts.
- V- We, the community of Smyser School, believe that all children can learn and are entitled to an outstanding education rich in opportunities and rewarding experiences. We are committed to providing all children with: a child-centered environment, a love of learning, pride in Smyser School and preparation for demands of the 21st Century. Our motto is, Smyser: A Community of Learners.

Smyser Accelerated School Facts

- Approximately 950 students pre-K through 8th grade.
- 22 different language spoken.
- 87% of students Meet and/or Exceed standards.
- Top 25 Chicago Public School Ranking
- ISBE Honor Roll and Spotlight School
- NCLB Compliant
- AMPS School

What Makes Smyser School Great?

- Dedicated Teachers
- Supportive Administrators
- Caring Parents
- Innovative Programs
- Dynamic Students
- A Wonderful Community



Special Programs

- Rigorous Core Reading and Math Programs.
- Fine Arts Programming: Choir, Show Choir, Band, Orchestra, Violins, Dance and more.
- Extensive after school programming both academic and extracurricular.
- Extensive Technology.
- Lots of Sports
- Special Events.



Purpose of Tonight's Literacy Event

- Community dinner and sharing.
- Participate in hands-on literacy activities that can be done with your child at home.
- To “build a bridge” between school and home.
- Visit and shop at the “Scholastic Book Fair”.
- Speak with a representative from the CPL- Austin & Irving Branch.
- Smyser Literary Magazine sale
- End of evening raffle drawing.

This Evening's Activities

Sign-Up for 2 Sessions: 6:30 & 7:00 PM

- K 104 Fun with Phonics
- 1st 214 The Doorbell Rang
- 2nd 207 Poetry Book Marks
- 3rd 201 Let's Make a Pizza Character!
- 4th 206 Story Cube
- 5th 301 Yummy Sandwich Board
- 6th 300 Aesop's Fable Cartoon Strip
- 7th 302 Poetry Slam
- 8th 304 Literacy Activities Using the Newspaper
- SPED 306 Book Making
- ESL 101 Book Marks
- Reading 098 Visualization
- Library Lions, Tiger, and Bears, Oh My!
- Computer Lab Imagine It! Technology

At 7:30 PM all guest will return to the auditorium for our fun raffle.

On-going Parental Support

- Send your child on-time to school daily wearing his/her uniform.
- Stay connected with the school.
- Monitor your students homework daily.
- Communicate concerns to your child's teacher.
- Reinforce and support school expectations and behaviors.
- Support your child's teachers and school by volunteering in the classroom for special events.
- Join the Smyser PTO and attend LSC/NCLB meetings.
- Model appropriate behavior and hold high expectations.
- Support school fundraisers.
- Visit the Smyser website for updates and information.
- Visit the CPS Parent Portal and monitor your child's progress.

Summer Learning Loss

“use it or lose it”

- All students experience learning loss when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.
- On average students lose 2 months of grade level equivalency.
- Low-income children and youths experience greater summer learning loss than their higher income peers.

Reversing Summer Learning Loss

“actions you can take”

- Look to the local newspaper and media for community funded learning programs and opportunities.
- Learn to love your local library- Austin & Irving Branch or others.
- Check out safe, parent-approved Internet sites.



Reversing Summer Learning Loss

“more actions you can take”

- Learn from a Vacation- make a point to make learning connections.
- Local Learning Resources- museums, zoos, aquariums, parks, concerts.
- Weekly math skills practice and problem solving.
- Read for pleasure.
- Keep a journal and write.



“Don’t Delay”

Now is the time to take action for keeping the brain stimulated and the body moving. Keep it simple, fun, and interesting. Let your children pick out the books to read and the sites to research on the Internet. The trick is to balance fun with learning. We hope our activities “spark” interest and ideas for you use.

Special Thanks

- Smyser STARS Team- Ms. Foreman; Ms. Augustine; Ms. Tomasello; and Ms. Antonopoulos.
- Ms. Kopczick- Literacy Coach
- Mr. Beiza, Assistant Principal
- Mr. Easter, Engineer
- Entire Smyser Faculty and Staff
- Smyser LSC & PTO

Parting Words

- Our children are the future!- Give them every advantage in life.

