

dePaul School

Respect-Teach-Challenge-Inspire

I've Learned I Still Have a Lot to Learn!

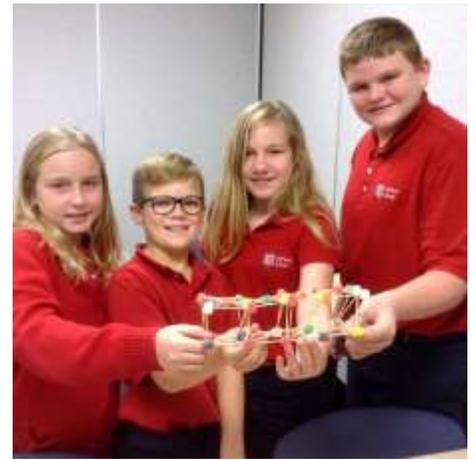
As Head of School, my goal is to provide the highest quality education for our students. Research has proven that for dyslexic students, an Orton-Gillingham (O-G) based literacy program (like DPSL) is *the* best and only way they will learn. That being said, I am a firm believer that there is always something we can do to improve our program each and every year.

In order to do this, the staff and I need to learn about the latest research and how it can influence instruction, we need to be aware of and open to new and innovative teaching techniques and strategies, seek out fresh material that aligns with and enhances DPSL and stay informed about curriculum options available for our students in all academic areas.

We have a fantastic opportunity to do all of these things during the week of October 23-29. Throughout the week, groups of teachers and staff will be heading to Orlando to listen, learn, and network with other professionals in the field of dyslexia education at the International Dyslexia Association's Annual Conference.

I always look forward to attending conferences – especially this one. Each year I return to school armed with new information and ideas on how we can make dePaul even better! Attending this or any professional conference always reminds me that I still have a lot to learn☺

Vicki Howell
Head of School



Upcoming Events

October 21

Delta program fieldtrip
Marine Quest, 10:00-2:00

In-School fieldtrip - Traditional
Wheels on Wheels (pottery
bus), 12:00-2:00

October 28

In-School fieldtrip – Delta
Wheels on Wheels 12:00-2:00

October 31

Trunk or Treat
Parent Set-Up 1:15
Students Outside @ 1:45

November 2

All-School picture and
student picture retakes

November 3

End of first grading period

November 4

Professional Day
No School for Students

November 21-25

Thanksgiving Break – School
Closed



2nd Hurricane Make-Up Day is Monday, March 20

Class Notes

...Mrs. Edwards Social Studies classes spend one day a week learning about dyslexia and understanding how it affects their learning and their life. This is an effort to empower them and teach them how to advocate for themselves.

...Ms. Barlow's Math students are assisting the youngest students each Friday in Mrs. Olson's classroom with "money math."

...Delta Science students are creating digital travel brochures "selling" their chosen biome (e.g. Amazon rainforest, Sahara Deser) to potential travelers.

...Mrs. Schorr's writing class practiced writing friendly letters (and addressing envelopes!) by sending letters to students at Liff Academy. They are anxiously awaiting letters from them in return!

...Delta PE students completed their basketball unit with a tournament held at Safety Harbor Community Center. Students have also been learning about proper UV protection and dangers. Next up is football and a unit on nutrition.

ShoeGood Sneaker Drive a huge success!

Thank you to all the families who turned in their gently used sneakers for the ShoeGood fundraiser. We collected 386 pairs of shoes!!! We will have the actual dollar amount in a couple of weeks. A special shout- out to Nancy Fryer and Penny Howard for organizing and collecting the shoes and also to Adriana Conover and her grandma, Susan Stevens. Ms. Stevens put a note in her company newsletter and collected a large number of shoes for dePaul!

St. Matthias Collecting Plastic Caps for dePaul

Save your caps from water, milk, soda and sports drink bottles and bring them to school for a recycling program called reCapture. The program gives credit based on the weight of the caps collected. Credit can then be applied to rewards. The goal is to collect enough caps from the congregation and the school to earn a recycled plastic "friendship bench" for the playground!

Computers/Cellphones are Keeping Kids Awake

An all too common problem for tweens/teens is that they are suffering from sleep deprivation because they are using cellphones, social networks and gaming sites in the middle of the night while alone in their rooms. Sleep deprivation can lead to dangerous situations and also clearly impacts learning. A recent study revealed that 75% of teens use cellphones at night when they should be sleeping. Also, according to an American Academy of Pediatrics study, after 9 pm, 34% of the adolescents reported text messaging, 44% reported talking on the telephone, 55% reported being online and 24% played computer games.

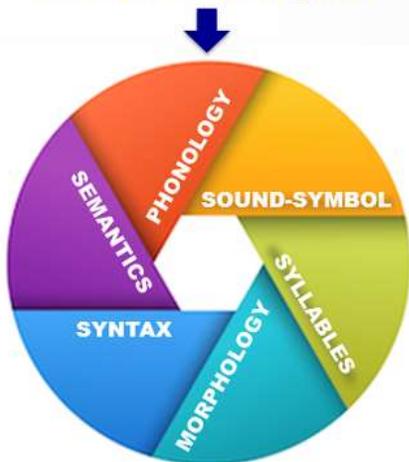
When sleep is disturbed the ability to learn is reduced.

How can parents help? If you want to optimize your kids ability to learn in the classroom, take away and turn off those cellphones and computers at night. When the phone is left on, kids feel the need to answer. "It could be something important. I've got to see who it is." Parents need to be parents and step in to make sure their children are getting adequate sleep and are not having their sleep interrupted by cellphones and computers.

Article reprinted from
ScreenRetriever.com

STRUCTURED LITERACY PRIMER

Structured Literacy's
ELEMENTS work together.



Structured Literacy's
Evidence-Based Elements

Phonology (study of sound structure of spoken words) is a key element of Structured Literacy Instruction. **Phonemic awareness** (ability to distinguish / segment / blend / manipulate sounds relevant to reading/spelling) is central to phonology.

Sound-Symbol Association Once students develop phoneme awareness, they must learn the **alphabetic principle**—how to map phonemes to letters (**graphemes**) and vice versa.

Syllables Knowing the six syllable / vowel grapheme types helps readers associate vowel spellings with vowel sounds. Syllable division rules help readers divide / decode unfamiliar words.

Morphology A **morpheme** is the smallest unit of meaning in language. Studying base elements and affixes helps readers decode and unlock the meanings of complex words.

Syntax—the set of principles that dictate the sequence and function of words in a sentence—includes grammar, sentence structure, and the mechanics of language.

Semantics Semantics is concerned with meaning. The Structured Literacy curriculum (from the start) includes instruction in the comprehension and appreciation of written language.