



The Wildcat Weekly

Winside Elementary School

402-286-4466

September 17, 2014

MAP TESTING..... During the week of September 22nd-26th, students in the 3rd-6th grades will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine instructional levels and to measure academic growth throughout the school year and from year-to-year in the areas of reading, math, and science. These tests are taken on the computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for each child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about the students' growth.

Please make note of the MAP testing week when scheduling appointments. Also make sure that your child gets a good night's rest and eats a healthy breakfast.

AR..... Students in grades 2-6 have AR (Accelerated Reader) goals in place. Please encourage your child to read his or her AR book at home throughout the week. Students do have AR time during the school day, but they should also be encouraged to read at home.

“ A book is a dream that you hold in your hand.” - Neil Gaiman



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES..... Parent-teacher conferences were originally scheduled for October 23rd and 24th. This has changed. The **NEW DATES** are Thursday, October 2nd from 3:00-9:00 PM and Friday, October 3rd from 8:30-11:30 AM. Please note this change on your calendars. Your child's conference time will be mailed to you within the next week.

HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS..... High ability learner education is designed to extend the learning environment for high-potential students. The program provides expanded learning experiences for students who are capable of studying in-depth matters of an academic and creative nature. Our program focuses on students in the 4th-6th grades. Several criteria are used to determine which students qualify for the program. These include teacher recommendations, classroom behavior reports, and scores from NeSA, MAP, STAR assessments, etc. Letters will be sent home to the students and parents within the next 2 weeks. We are excited to provide the students with new opportunities this school year!

MORE ON BACK...

READING TIPS FOR PARENTS

By [Anne Schwartzberg](#)

Keep reading lively and interesting with these 7 tips. Learn new ways and means to support and open up this new wonderful world to your child. Even if your child is motivated to read, supporting her with a variety of ways and options will keep her momentum going. Here are 7 tips to open up the wonderful world of reading for your child.

- **What’s “Just Right”?** Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are “just right.” But how do you find a “just right” book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that he cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. Choosing the right book will help your little reader feel successful.
- **Map it Out** It’s important to provide your child with a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading. A fun way to do this is to get a map and show them the way from your house to the grocery store or another familiar destination. Have your child write out the directions, street by street, and then read them to you as you walk or drive to the store – like a living GPS!
- **Card Tricks** Do you think effective reading only takes place at libraries and book stores? Think again! There are reading opportunities everywhere. Go to a greeting card store with your child and read the greeting cards together. Later, vote for the ones whose words convey the best birthday wish or get-well sentiment.
- **Picture This!** During your next outing or gathering, take action-packed photos, then have your child create captions to go with each picture. Assemble the pictures and captions in a picture book or album, and add speech and thought bubbles to create a personalized – and probably hysterical -- graphic novel.
- **Last Comic Standing** Take time to read comic strips together. Share favorites from your own childhood and have your child put his favorites on the fridge. Read them aloud, and often -- repetition is a great way to build reading skills. Soon, he’ll love looking forward to the “Sunday funnies” each week.
- **Become a Fan** Your child will soon develop a love for particular authors and illustrators. Nurture her fan-ship by helping her write a letter to her favorite author. Many authors have their own websites with contact information, but here’s a great place to start your search (<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/authors/all.htm>). You can also contact the book’s publisher, the mailing address for which can often be found on the back of the title page or on the publisher’s Web site.
- **Labels of Love** Word recognition and vocabulary are important parts of reading. On a rainy day, get some paper and tape and start labeling everything in your home -- from furniture to small knick-knacks. Reading these labels repeatedly will build your child’s mental word bank. If your family is bilingual, create labels in both languages.