

Weekly wrap-up



November 6, 2020

A Message From Kathy:

The Power of Table Talk

Researchers have found that talking to children during meals is even better than reading to them to boost their vocabulary. Exposure to multiple points of view engage kids in complex thinking and can encourage tolerance for different opinions and develop empathy. Child psychologists agree that when children are listened to with curiosity and respect from peers and family their confidence grows.

Daily at the Academy scholars interact in productive dialogue with their peers. Doing so, they hone social skills that allow them to clarify their thinking, ask probing questions, put ideas on the table and consider multiple perspectives. To develop their productive dialogue skills, students need multiple opportunities to engage in accountable Table Talk that will move them from passive, dependent receivers of information to active, independent thinkers. As you gather at your table with friends and family during this holiday season and beyond I want to share some ideas to keep the Table talk going at home.

Ideas:

Buy or make your own Table Talk topic cards...Each card is printed with a conversation starter, such as "Which famous person would you like to meet?" "What is your favorite holiday song?" "Who would you invite to your birthday party if you could invite anyone in the whole world?" "How do you feel when you are told to sit still?".

Have a wish of the week...on Sunday or Monday start a family journal in which each member of the family writes down one wish for the coming week. "I hope I ace my spelling test." or "I wish I could play with Tyler every day this week." "I hope my presentation goes well." Then, these become Table Talk during the week as you follow up.

A McGuire family and friend Table Talk favorite is "Life Before". Best played with multi generations gathered around the table... "I remember life before remote controls. -We got up and changed the stations on the television." "I remember life before cell phones- I had a rotary dial phone!" Imagine the conversations about 4 or 5 stations, black and white TV, rabbit ears, push button phones, the first cell phones. Kids love to hear this history and say "NO WAY!"

Blessings, Kathy

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Mermaid Math with 1st grade scholar Wren.



Artists hard at work!

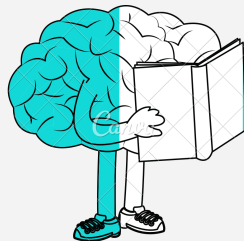


2nd grade scholar Blake doing live art with leaves.

MY BRAIN IS LIKE A MUSCLE THAT GROWS!

These "thinking stems" can help scholars think and talk through problems toward a GROWTH mindset.

- I wonder...
- I'm learning...
- I'm thinking...
- I'm seeing...
- I'm feeling...
- I'm figuring out...
- This reminds me of....
- I just learned...



Make a poster of these stems with your scholar to hang in their room or hang on the fridge for easy access and reference.



History lesson with Ms Hensons 4th grade class

Mark Your Calendars:

- Blessing Bags are due Nov 9th
- Wednesday, Nov 11th is a holiday
 - No School in Session
- Friendsgiving is November 23rd
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov 25 - 27
- Winter Break: Dec 21 - Jan 1