Welcome to
ALAMOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Parent & Student Handbook
2019-2020

Admin Staff:
Jennifer Aynesworth - Principal
Cyndi Alvarado - Assistant Principal
- Assistant Principal Preschool
Mary Jimenez - Intervention Admin

Office Staff:
Joe’l Wellonen - Principal’s Secretary
Bev Barber - Clerk
Hayley Brown - Clerk
Melissa Rosenthal - Health Office
Heather Quinlan - Preschool Clerk

38200 Pacific Park Drive, Murrieta, California  92563
Office 951-294-6760 / Attendance 951-294-6761
Welcome to Alamos Elementary School, home of the Owls. We hope your family had a wonderful summer vacation and are excited to begin the 2019-2020 school year. This is going to be an OVER the TOP kind of year and I am so very excited to share it with you!

If you are a brand new to our school this year…welcome to the nest! We are so glad that you are here and we know that very soon you will come to love Alamos as much as we do. Please take a moment to review the important information in this handbook. I think you will soon discover that AES is a great place to be!

Alamos Elementary School is an asset building school that prides itself on academic excellence while instilling in children a love for learning. The FISH Philosophy frames our heart working vision and continues to inspire our students to embrace others, recognize and appreciate differences and be personally invested in our school community. AES is a “school” of FISH, and together we will BE THERE, PLAY, MAKE THEIR DAY and CHOOSE OUR ATTITUDE! We hope you will find this handbook helpful as a new year unfolds.

At AES, we truly value our school families and their contribution to our educational community. It is our hope to make the time you and your child spend at AES, the very best. Our commitment to providing an OVER the TOP service experience is the little bit of extra we do every day to make the ordinary, EXTRORDINARY! Whether it’s a joyful greeting as you walk in to our front office, a prompt and courteous response to address concerns or perhaps the stellar instruction provided by our teaching staff, the customer service at AES is OVER the TOP. If you should have any questions, concerns and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to share them! My office door is always open and I welcome the chance to talk with you and get to know you better. See you at the TOP…we will go Over it Together!

Fondly,

Jenniffer Aynesworth
Help Your Child Start Each School Day Right!

To keep your child healthy, be sure he or she is....

Well Rested:
Kindergarten and First grade students need ten to twelve hours of sleep each night, Fourth and Fifth graders may need eight to nine hours.

Well Nourished;
Meals should be well-balanced and unhurried. Insist on wholesome, nutritious foods while avoiding junk food.

Alamos Library Mission Statement
The Alamos Elementary School Library is committed to providing students with the skills necessary to become effective users of ideas and information. This is accomplished by providing learning opportunities that foster competence and stimulate interest in reading and good literature.

Hours: 8:40 am to 3:30 pm
Monday through Friday.

Library Citizenship
1. Treat books with respect.
2. Remember to check out your books properly.
3. Always return library books on time.
4. Turn the pages of a book from the top corner.
5. Carry your books to and from the library in a book bag.
6. Always use clean hands when handling a library book.
7. Never put food or drinks near your library book.
8. If you discover a damaged book, give it to the librarian. You are responsible for the damage if you do not report it. Library books are mended with special materials.
9. Library checkout will be suspended until all library books are returned and / or fines are resolved.
VOLUNTEERS/VISITORS

Volunteers provide wonderful support to our classroom teachers and we welcome them. If you are interested in volunteering, you will need to have a current TB test, code of conduct and Megan’s Law form on file in our office. Please contact the classroom teacher to let him/her know your interest and availability. All volunteers are required to sign in and out at the office with our new Raptor system requiring identification every time. The Raptor will print a Volunteer badge to be worn at all times while on campus. Visitors will only be allowed on campus for special events such as assemblies and performances. Younger siblings (anyone under 18) may not accompany parent volunteers or visitors as this is disruptive to the instructional process and presents a liability concern. We thank you for understanding and valuing our students’ academic success.

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

School phones are limited to school business and emergencies. If the office receives a message during instructional time, it will be forwarded to the teacher’s voice mailbox/email to be picked up during their recess and/or lunch times. The classroom will not be disturbed. This could mean that your child will not receive your message in a timely manner or possibly, not receive it prior to dismissal. Therefore, plans for after-school activities should be made at home before the school day begins.

TARDINESS/ABSENCE

Regular attendance is an important indicator of school success. We respect the importance of quality instructional time. Students should be on time and ready to learn.

Promptness to class is extremely important. Students are to be in their seat and ready for instruction when the final bell sounds. Interruptions due to tardiness take away from learning time and are disruptive to the class. Tardy students are to report to the office as soon as they arrive at school. Three tardies is equal to one truancy. Students who are truant or habitually absent (more than three days) may be referred to the School Attendance Review board.

Consistent attendance is essential to your child’s education progress; therefore, absences should be kept to a minimum. (Please remember that much of what your child learns at school comes directly from one to one contact with the teacher. It cannot be duplicated on a piece of paper.) If your child must be absent, please call the absence line at (951) 294-6761. For your convenience, this phone is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students who do not miss any part of the school day are recognized at the end of each semester for “Perfect Attendance.”

MORNING ARRIVAL

Gates open and playground supervision begins at 8:40 am. Please do Not send your child to school before 8:40 am, as there is NO supervision. Child Care is available as early as 6:00 am for working parents. For fees, registration, or more information, call the Child Care office at (951) 294-6774.
PTO Information

Hello Alamos Families,

The Alamos Elementary PTO would like to welcome all our new and returning families to the 2019-2020 school year. PTO’s mission is to support and enhance the educational experiences of the school’s students by providing an organization through which the parents, the school and teachers can work cooperatively and by providing financial support for programs funded outside of the annual school budget. The PTO funds and sponsors numerous events, programs, assemblies, technology and school enrichment throughout the year. In order for the PTO to be effective and represent our school the best way possible, it is essential to have involvement from as many of our Alamos family members as possible. There are many opportunities for you to get involved without having to be present daily: you can volunteer at events, be a room parent, offer any ideas or suggestions you have at any time, contribute your time from home, donating items for staff appreciation and luncheons, etc. No matter the level of your flexibility; any time, effort and generosity given by the members of our Alamos family is greatly appreciated, always welcome and truly does make a difference in the lives of our AES students. If you have any questions on how to volunteer or become a PTO member, questions about PTO, comments or concerns please feel free to email Casey Rendon at alamospto@gmail.com any time. This year our meetings will be held the third Friday of every month in the MPR at 9:45am (with the exception of our first meeting on August 23rd and December 13th, both meetings will still be held at normal time and location). We look forward to working with you and getting to know you this year. You can follow us on our website at https://alamospto.wixsite.com/alamoselementarypto, on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/AlamosElementarySchoolPTO and on Instagram @alamoselementarypto and on the remind app http://rmd.at/alamospt. Thank you in advance for your support.

Casey Rendon (President), Sonia Whitmore (Vice President), Kathy Toner (Treasurer),

Veronica Enriquez (Secretary), and the rest of the PTO Board

CALLING ALL DADS, GRANDFATHERS, UNCLES OR FATHER-FIGURES!

WATCH D.O.G.S.

What is WATCH D.O.G.S.? It stands for “Dads Of Great Students” and is a Nationally recognized program.

What do you do in WATCH D.O.G.S.? It’s easy! A detailed schedule for your day will be provided, and will include: helping during drop-off and pick-up, patrolling the school grounds, assisting with P.E. classes, being available for special projects and requests, and interacting with Students during breaks and lunch.

More information can be found on the Alamos Website under the “parent” tab.

Flag Salute Assemblies
Come Catch the AES Spirit every Friday!
9:00—9:35
**Tips for a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference**

Parent-teacher conferences are one of the best ways you can learn about your child.

Here are five tips that can help you have a more successful conference:

1. Plan for the conference. Before you come to your conference, write out questions you’d like to ask. Here are suggestions:
   - Does my child get along with others?
   - How is my child’s behavior in class?
   - Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade?
   - Is my child able to do the math that you expect for a student at this grade?
   - What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses?

2. Keep an open mind. Your goal is to work for cooperation between you and your child’s teacher. Even if your child’s teacher says something you disagree with, try to listen to what he/she has to say.

3. Ask to see samples of your child’s work. There’s no better way to see how your child is progressing than to look at his/her school work.

4. Ask for suggestions. If your child is doing well, ask what you can do to keep things on a positive track. If there are problems, ask what you can do to help.

5. Clarify and summarize as you go. Teachers sometimes use educational buzz words. If you do not understand something the teacher says, just ask.

**CONFERENCES**

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held the week of October 14, 2019. Conferences may be requested at any time by either the teacher or parent. Please make every effort to attend the conference. Parents are encouraged to conference with the teacher at any time throughout the year. An appointment may be made by leaving a message for the teacher at the office, by phone or in writing to the teacher.

**PROGRESS REPORTS & REPORT CARDS**

Report Cards are issued at the end of each semester. Parents can view their child's grades, at any time, by logging on to the Parent Portal which is accessed through the Alamos Website: [http://aes.tvusd.k12.ca.us/aes](http://aes.tvusd.k12.ca.us/aes). You will need an Activation Key the first time you log on to the Parent Portal. This can be obtained by coming in to the front office.
**HEELIES, BIKES, SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER BLADES, SCOOTERS**

For safety reasons, heelies (shoes with wheels), roller blades are not allowed at school or any school events. Riding a bike to school is not recommended for students in grades K-2.

Students who ride bikes/scooters to school must supply a lock. They must be locked in the bike rack, not on classroom hooks. Bicycle helmets must be worn by all students riding anything to school, this is the Law. However, helmets must be removed from the head and not used as a hat while on campus. Skateboards and skates/roller blades are not allowed on the school grounds at any time. Bikes must be walked while on campus. We are not responsible for lost/stolen items.

**LOST AND FOUND**

A lost and found area is located outside the Multi-Purpose Room. Please mark your children’s sweaters, jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. for easy identification. Small items are turned into the office. Parents are invited to check the lost and found. We are not responsible for toys, games or other personal items which should not be brought to school. Unclaimed items are periodically given to local charities.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Students’ birthdays are recognized at Friday Flag salute Assembly not with food or party favors. In addition, if you would like your child’s special day to be remembered by Alamos children forever, we invite you to contact our librarian, Ms. Villegas for a list of titles or money to donate toward the purchase of a new library bound book. This book, containing a lovely book plate with your child’s name inside, will become part of our permanent collection circulating to all Alamos Children.

**SNACKS**

Each class has a snack period at the beginning of the morning recess. Snacks are eaten at the outdoor picnic tables in the shade area.

All students, especially younger students, benefit from a nutritious snack. Please avoid soft drinks, sugary snacks, candy, or other “junk foods”. Fruit, a half sandwich, and crunchy vegetables are especially good energy boosters. As with lunches, if a snack/water bottle is forgotten, bring it to the office, clearly marked, and the teacher will be notified via voice/email. Remember we Don’t share food with friends.

**CELL PHONES ETC.**

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices are permitted on school campus. However, they should not be used unless directed otherwise by staff. If a phone is seen or heard at inappropriate times, it may be confiscated. Staff is not responsible for damaged or lost cell phones. Students may use their cell phones once they have reached the sidewalks along the school, after school. Look for our BYOD permission form again this year.

**Lunches**

Hot lunches may be purchased for $2.75 daily. (Price subject to change) Students may pre-purchase lunches by the week or month.

Menus are sent home monthly, published in local newspapers and posted on-line @www.tvusd.k12.ca.us. If you apply for free or reduced price lunch, applications must be submitted and approved each year. Students bringing lunch from home may purchase milk.

**MY CHILD FORGOT HIS/HER LUNCH**

**WHAT HAPPENS?**

If your child forgets his/her lunch, bring the lunch to the office with the child’s and teacher’s name clearly marked on it. The lunches will be taken to the Multi-Purpose Room prior to first lunch at 11:25 am (or 10:55 am modified schedule). STUDENTS WILL NOT BE CALLED IN CLASS to notify them they have a lunch being held in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Thank you for understanding that instructional time is valued at Alamos Elementary School. Students who forget to pay for or bring lunch will be provided with an emergency lunch.
**PLAYGROUND RULES**

1. Play in designated areas only.
2. Follow directions of supervisor.
3. Respect others, play safely and fair.
4. Play games that are not dangerous.
   **Some games that are NOT allowed:**
   - Tackle Football
   - Hardball
   - Dodge ball
   - Twisting or jumping from the swings
   - Crack the Whip
   - Piggy Backs, Camel Backs
   - Tag or ball throwing on the jungle gym
   - Hanging upside down on the bars
   If you are not sure what is safe, check with the supervisor.
5. **Do not bring personal sports equipment from home to school.** All necessary equipment is provided by the school.
6. Any act which is physically or mentally harmful to self or others will not be tolerated.
7. Fighting will not be allowed. Immediate consequences will be administered.

**CLASSROOM RULES**

Each teacher has a set of classroom rules and consequences in order to ensure the safety and education of the children. During the first week of school, these rules will be sent home for parents to review with their children before they sign and return them to the teacher.

**LUNCH AREA RULES**

1. Line up and speak quietly.
2. Use proper table manners and keep your area clean.
3. Keep all food in the cafeteria or by the lunch tables.
4. Stay in assigned seat, throw away your own trash and leave only when excused by the supervisor.

**REWARDS/STUDENT RECOGNITION**

For those students who follow the rules and procedures, there will be appropriate rewards and recognition. Students will be recognized at the Friday Flag Salute assembly for a variety of achievements. Teachers have classroom reward systems in place including sending “excellent” students to the Principal’s office for positive recognition.

**CONSEQUENCES**

Violation of school rules or procedures may result in:

- a warning - “time-out” - self reflection
- phone call home - principal conferences
- appropriate work assignment
- loss of school privileges
- in-school or home suspension

**VAPA and PE**

We are very fortunate to once again have visual and performing arts and PE teachers in our district. Every class (gr. 1-5) will have one 45 minute VAPA class per week, rotating through dance, visual arts, music, and theater every 9-10 weeks. Students will receive 45 minutes of PE instruction a week from a PE specialist and the additional time from their classroom teacher. The state mandates every student (gr. 1-5) receive 200 minutes of PE instruction every 10 days.
Recommended District Guidelines

**Kindergarten** - Read aloud, daily calendar review; occasional math and special projects. (Mon.-Thurs. 15-30 minutes daily)

**First and Second Grades** - Reading (15-30 minutes each night): review of subject area content or basic skills; activities that encourage family participation. (Mon.-Thurs. 15 - 30 minutes daily)

**Third Grade** - Independent nightly reading (15 - 30 minutes); basic skill review activities that reinforce curricular objectives and encourage family participation; long-term projects/reports. (Mon.-Thurs. 45-60 minutes daily)

**Fourth Grade** - Independent nightly reading (15 - 30 minutes); Unfinished classroom assignments in addition to: regularly assigned writing, spelling, or math activities; basic skill review; activities that encourage family participation. (Mon.-Thurs. 45-60 minutes daily)

**Fifth Grade** - Independent nightly reading (15 - 30 minutes); Unfinished classroom assignments in addition to; regularly assigned spelling activities; Problem of the Week; long-term projects/reports; basic skill review; activities that encourage family participation. (Mon.-Thurs. 45-60 minutes)

---

**Homework Tip**

The Temecula Valley Unified School District Governing Board recognizes that homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and lifelong learning habits and that time spent on homework directly influences students’ ability to meet the district’s academic standards. The Board expects students, parents/guardians and staff to view homework as a routine and important part of students’ daily lives. Homework is assigned in addition to work not completed during the regular school day and is designed to be an extension of the classroom. Homework assignments given in all grades K-12 shall: be reasonable, be specific, reinforce classroom learning, relate to individual student needs and abilities and relate to the course of study. Although it is the student’s responsibility to do most homework assignments independently, the Board expects teachers at all grade levels to use parents/guardians as a contributing resource. When students repeatedly fail to do their homework, parents/guardians shall be notified and asked to contact the teacher.

- Parents . . . Establish a consistent time with your child to do homework.
- Pick a quiet place that is free from distractions.
- Be sure the study place has a good light.
- Keep paper, pencils, a dictionary, and other study materials in your work area.

Be supportive and encouraging; AND check to make sure that assignments are being completed.
HEALTH

Should your child become ill or hurt at school, we have a health clerk who will attend to the child’s immediate needs. However, sick children belong at home. Please contact your physician if you have concerns about your child’s health as the health clerk is not able to assume responsibility for diagnosing health problems. Please do not send your child to school if he/she has:

1. Vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
2. Had a fever of 100 or higher in the last 24 hours.
3. Obvious severe cold symptoms (sneezing, nasal congestion, runny nose, persistent cough or sore throat).
4. Eyes that itch, burn, or are bloodshot or draining. These can be symptoms of pink eye (usually very contagious and needs treatment by a doctor).
5. Has a rash or other questionable symptoms.

If your child becomes ill or hurt at school, we will contact you to take him/her home.

MEDICATION

When it is necessary for your child to take medication (over the counter or prescription) during the school day, it is required that you and your physician complete a district form in order for the nurse or health clerk to administer the medication. Medication must be brought to the office in the original container and will be locked in the nurse’s cabinet. Parents must bring the medicine into the health office. Students may not bring any medication to school. No Exceptions. What may have a medicinal value to one student may be lethally poisonous to another.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

For the safety of your child due to illness, accident or disaster, it is imperative that the school have your current telephone number and address, work location and telephone number. Please list numbers of reliable, prearranged local emergency contacts in case the school cannot contact the parents. Always keep the school informed of ANY changes in this vital information.

boo boos happen!
The Temecula Valley Unified School District Governing Board and the staff of Alamos Elementary School believe that all students have the right to be educated in a positive, safe learning environment free from disruptions. The Board and staff are fully committed to maximizing an environment that teaches strategies for conflict resolution, violence prevention and emphasizes high expectations for student conduct, responsible behavior and respect for others. As part of the Safe School Plan, the following Ed. Code regulations for suspensions/ expulsions are included.

**GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSIONS/EXPULSIONS**

**Education Code 48900**

A student can be suspended from school by the principal, if it has been determined that the student, while on school grounds or during an activity off school grounds related to school attendance, has:

a. Caused, attempted to cause or threatened to cause physical injury to another person or willfully used force or violence to another person.

b. Possessed, sold or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object.

c. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.

d. Unlawfully offered or arranged or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance, or material and represented the liquid substance or material as a controlled substance alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

e. Committed robbery or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.

f. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.

g. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.

h. Possessed or used tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products.

i. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.

j. Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia.

k. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.

l. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

m. Possessed an imitation firearm (Reasonable person concludes replica is a firearm).

n. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault.

o. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding.

p. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

q. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing as defined in Section 32050.

r. Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 32261, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel.

The following offenses only apply to students in grades 4 - 12.

**Education Code 48900.2** Committed Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment can be defined as when a person uses sexual words and actions that make another person feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

**Education Code 48900.3** Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participate in act of hate violence.

**Education Code 48900.4** Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation, directed against a pupil or group of pupils.

**Education Code 48900.7** Terrorist threats against school officials or school property or both.

Any disciplinary referral may result in: a warning/conference with school personnel; phone call or note home; detention; appropriate work assignment; restriction from school activities; in school or home suspension; other appropriate consequences.
Alamos Elementary School
DRESS AND GROOMING GUIDELINES
(Temecula Valley Unified School District Board Policy 5132; Administrative Regulation 5132)

The Governing Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students have the right to make individual choices from a wide range of clothing and grooming styles, but they must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals must have heel straps. Thongs or backless shoes or sandals are not acceptable.

2. Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice or the use of drugs or alcohol.

3. Hats shall not be altered or worn backwards. Teachers may request that hats be removed in the classroom or inside buildings. Headbands/sweatbands and hair nets will not be allowed.

4. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fish-net fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.

5. Personal cleanliness, including clean hair, is expected.

6. Any individualizing of apparel to designate affiliation with gang or outside organizations will not be allowed, except with prior permission from the site administrator. Objectionable attire includes:
   a) Wearing of gang clothing (hats, shirts, jackets) or insignias of gangs;
   b) Wearing or displaying headbands or bandannas;
   c) Any other activity or dress that indicates support or belonging to a gang. The wearing of hats, shirts, jackets or any other clothing with gang names or an individual student’s name or nickname is not permitted. However, the uniforms and auxiliary clothing of school sponsored groups and teams is acceptable campus dress.

---------------------------------
Temecula Valley Unified School District
Does Not Tolerate Sexual Harassment, Hate Crime Discrimination on the basis of:
Gender, Race, Color, Religion, Origin, Ethnic Group, Marital or Parental Status, or Physical or Mental Disability.
We are committed to a school environment where staff and students may flourish in a climate of acceptance free from actions statements or activities which degrade the unique qualities of every individual. If you feel you have been harassed, tell a teacher, a counselor, or the principal.

TVUSD Board Policies 411911, 0410 and 13133 are on file in every administrative office within the District.

---------------------------------
Temecula Valley Unified School District
Is a Tobacco Free school district. It is a violation to have tobacco products on campus.
TVUSD Board Policy 513162
Why do children of equal ability often score so differently on tests? Is it because one child studies more than the other? Maybe --- but this is not always the case.

In fact, good test-taking skills can be as important as knowing the material. Without these skills, your child’s scores are not likely to reflect what he or she knows.

Test scores are not a perfect measure of what your child can do --- but they are important. They may affect your child’s yearly grade or placement in school. Besides, the ability to do well on tests can help throughout life---whether it’s getting a driver’s license or getting a job. So, how can you help improve your child’s test scores? Whether it’s a teacher-made test or a standardized test, here are some test-taking secrets that get results.

Develop a healthy attitude toward tests

First, help your child understand why tests are necessary. Explain that a test is like a yardstick. Schools use them to measure how much students are learning --- and how well schools are teaching. They let teachers know if your child needs extra help, and they also show areas of strength.

It’s best not to make too big a deal about test results --- especially on a single test. Many things can affect your child’s score on any given day. If he does poorly on a test, he may need reassurance. Point out some of his successes.

Prepare for tests - one day at a time

Some students get so worried about tests that they don’t do well on test day. The best way to avoid “test anxiety” is to space studying over several days or weeks. Begin by marking major test dates on the family calendar. Next, help your child schedule regular times to review. She can talk about the subject, read about it, or “teach” the material to someone in the family.

Finally, encourage your child to pay attention to the teacher’s review. She needs to know what kinds of questions will be on the test and what material will be covered.

The night before a big test

“Cramming” the night before a test usually makes things worse and interferes with clear thinking. If your child has kept up with daily assignments and has been reviewing all along, cramming shouldn’t be necessary. When possible, try to spend a relaxing evening at home. It’s also important for your child to get a good night’s sleep.
Extra! Extra!

Summer Reading - In the News

Reading is one of the best ways to keep your youngster’s mind active over the summer. Try these ideas to encourage your child to read for fun----and learning.

**Read-a-thon.** Challenge everyone in your family to read at least a half hour every day. See who can go the longest without missing a day. To generate enthusiasm, agree on a prize for the winner ahead of time. Examples: a week without chores, dinner at a favorite restaurant, a gift certificate from the bookstore.

**Book Swap.** Talk to family members and the parents of your youngster’s friends, and arrange for the kids to trade books. Once they’ve read a few of each other’s books, you could get together for a book party. For instance, have everyone meet for a picnic, and let the kids talk about the stories. Idea: Put questions about the books in a hat, and have them take turns selecting one to answer.

**Fund-raisers.** Encourage your child to raise money for reading materials. First, help her brainstorm money-making activities. Examples: washing Dad’s car, walking Grandma’s dog, weeding the garden. You might also give her a few dollars a week as a “reading allowance.” She can spend the money on a magazine subscription or books.

**Clipping coupons.** Give your child the weekly shopping list. See if she can match the items on the list with coupons or sales ads in the paper.

**Reading on the go.** Encourage your youngster to take a book along on errands. He can read in the car, in waiting rooms, etc. Using pockets of time for reading is a great habit to develop, and it makes time pass more quickly.

**Story Search.** Turn story time into game time with your youngster. Ingredients: story book, paper, pencils, old magazines or catalogs.

- Read the story to your child. Have her listen and secretly write a list of 10 items that are mentioned in the story. Next, ask her to read the story to you while you write a list of 10 things from the story.
- After you’ve both read, exchange lists and go on a scavenger hunt through your home. The first person to find all 10 items on the list wins. Tip: Instead of finding the objects around the house, you could hunt for pictures of them in old magazines or catalogs.

**Letter sounds.** Ask your child to point out words that begin with the same sound. Example: For /b/, he could choose “boy,” “bat,” and “ball.” See if older children can find a five- or six-letter word or a word that ends with a certain sound.

**Scavenger hunt.** Make a list of things for your youngster to find in the newspaper. Examples: the weather forecast, picture’s of animals, a number smaller than eight.

**Around the world.** Clip headlines about other countries. See if your child can find these places on a world map, a globe, or the Internet.

**Mix and match.** Cut out four or five interesting pictures with captions. Separate the words from the pictures. Ask your youngster to read the captions and match them...