




# Parents Matter

November 2012



Title 1: Parents,  
Teachers, and  
Students working  
together to achieve  
more!

Naumann Elementary School's Title I  
Parent Newsletter

You're Invited!

## Learning Styles Your Child Has One

Join me as we explore  
how your child's learning  
style affects his or her  
learning.

Wednesday, November  
28<sup>th</sup>

5:00-6:00 p.m.

in the

Naumann Library

## Can We Teach Happiness?

One indicator of happiness is how optimistic we are. Why be optimistic? Health and Fitness writer Leanne Beattie reports in her article, *Optimism and the Power of Positive Thinking*, "Optimism is a skill of emotional intelligence, which translates to a better career and greater success in life. Life is too short to be miserable. Optimists tend to share several other positive characteristics that increase overall happiness and promote health, while reducing depression and chronic stress:

- *They think about, reflect on, and emphasize the good things in life.*
- *They are grateful and thankful for all their blessings.*
- *They don't complain when something bad happens.*
- *They feel that nothing can hold them back from achieving success and reaching their goals.*
- *They believe in abundance.*
- *They are confident that the world offers plenty of opportunities for everyone to succeed."*

Parents can model optimism and help their children to rethink difficult situations. For example, disappointment in a grade can be reframed as an opportunity to learn. Instead of asking, "Why did you get a 70?" ask, "What did you learn? What do you still need to learn? What did you do well on this assignment? What do you want to work on?"

## Writing Woes

Writing! For some people writing is as easy as taking a breath. Give them a pencil and their thoughts cover the page. For others, writing is not a simple task. Transferring thoughts to written words can be challenging and spelling patterns can elude them. Accompanying these struggles with writing is also something called *writing anxiety*.

What's writing anxiety? During the school day students are required to record their thinking through writing on many assignments. Imagine that you are asked to write a paragraph describing how a character changed during a story. If students struggle with writing, they may spend more time thinking about what's going to happen when they don't complete the assignment or how bad they are at writing than about what they are actually going to write on the page.

In order to make writing less intimidating, there are stress-free ways to incorporate writing practice into a child's day, such as having children write the grocery list or giving them a diary that they write in each day. Children can write letters or postcards to family members and friends or create their own comic strips. Children can write letters to the editor of a newspaper about a topic they feel strongly about. Try leaving written messages tucked under a pillow, in a backpack, in the refrigerator. It won't be long before your children are writing back to you!

### Questions? Comments?

Please contact Mrs. Giulvezan at 512-570-5857 or email [christina.giulvezan@leanderisd.org](mailto:christina.giulvezan@leanderisd.org).

## Make Writing Fun

- Write outside on the concrete with a bucket of water and a paintbrush.
- Use fancy pencils, markers, and pens.
- Write with dry erase markers on whiteboards.
- Create a comic strip.
- Use a small journal and write letters to your child and have your child write back to you.
- Make a mystery box. Leave letters in the box from a princess, a fairy, or a Transformer. Have your child write back!
- Write messages in a secret code.

## Writing Websites for Kids

Creative Writing Prompts  
Over 300 story and journal ideas

<http://www.creativewritingprompts.com/>

The Dabbling Mum

Lots of ideas to start your child writing!

<http://thedabblingmum.com/writing/prompts/index.htm>

Spelling Games on  
BGames.com

<http://www.bgames.com/games/spelling-games-1.html> Games.com