



Weekly Note from PS Administration

May 04-08, 2020

Dear Primary School Parents!

One of our main goals as educators is to develop a culture of reading. What that means is we want children to read for the absolute joy of learning. While we say we want them to read for 20 minutes, that is just the minimum. The most powerful academic activity you can do with your child is to read to them and with them. The research is startling. Starting in kindergarten, if a student reads just 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

This compelling data on the benefits of encouraging your child to read comes from the American Academy of Pediatrics. They found reading to children of any age awakens a number of regions in the left part of the brain, particularly those areas involved in understanding the meaning of words and concepts tied to memory.

Their research also found that from the time your child is born, reading out loud is a positive influence. As your child grows, daily reading will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process. Adding to that benefit, vocabulary knowledge equates to masterful spelling. In fact, reading, spelling and vocabulary are critically important to a child's lifelong achievement.

Reading is more than just translating written words into verbal form; it is about understanding those words were once ideas in the minds of great thinkers. It is about realizing those ideas can be connected to personal experiences. Through daily reading, children are exposed to a world outside their own reality. It expands their

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know-how, opens their minds and creates the potential for a continuation of ideas and an endless number of possibilities.

There is nothing quite like reading together as a family. Whether you're flipping through picture books sitting in the same room with older kids, or you are each immersed in a piece of literature, these are times you remember. For a moment, you are all able to escape worries and experience art in written form. It is something that can be recreated in different forms with every new book and family read-a-thon.

More than any other time in your child's history, this is the time to encourage and model as much reading as possible. If they are bored, encourage them to open a book. Get excited that they want to read all day, help them build a quiet space to read. Developed now, good reading habits will only help to increase their intellectual curiosity and their drive to understand the world.

READ

20 MINUTES A DAY



STUDENT A
reads at home

20
min/day

STUDENT B
reads at home

5
min/day

STUDENT C
reads at home

1
min/day

THEY WILL HEAR

1,800,000

282,000

8,000

WORDS PER YEAR

THEY WILL HAVE READ FOR

851

212

42

HOURS BY 6TH GRADE

AND ON STANDARDIZED TESTS,
THEY WILL LIKELY SCORE BETTER THAN

90%

50%

10%

OF THEIR PEERS

Source: <http://readdbq.org/2014/11/19/read-20-minutes-day/>

Hot Topics

Placement 2020-2021

This is the time when families begin to wonder about classroom placement for next year. In this letter, you will find our Student Classroom Assignment Protocol for next year. We truly believe having a policy is a necessary and vital characteristic for creating a school environment that is equitable and thriving. Our configuration model is focused on equity. Whereas in the past, we tried to honor parent classroom assignment requests, this practice resulted in unbalanced classrooms in some grade levels, and created tension within our community.

This year, with the experience we are facing in distance learning, we have made the decision as both a Primary School and an Elementary School to do a modified form of looping, instead of a redistribution model. In this model, students will move as a classroom directly into the next grade-level. We have reached out to several institutions in similar situations, and we strongly believe having the students remain in the same cohort and moving to the next grade level together will limit any additional trauma, and create an environment conducive to learning from day one.

We understand some of you may feel strongly about not having your child remain in the same class with the same cohort. In this case, you may opt out of the looping scenario by contacting Ana Maria or Silvi in the office, and informing them of your decision to opt out of looping. However, while you may choose this as your preference, please understand that you will not be able to designate which homeroom teacher, or peers your child is placed with next year.

That determination will still be made based on the following factors, and formed through collaboration with general education teachers, co-teachers, specialist teachers, counselors, and instructional coaches:

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| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Student learning level/academic strengths | Social and emotional needs |
| Student behavior | Gender |
| Demographic information | Native English Speakers |
| Ratio of International/Colombian students | Relationships |

Our primary school staff know your student's instructional strengths, social and emotional needs, which students they work best with, or students from whom they need to be separated. As a school, we do not make these decisions lightly, and all of our decisions are based on this belief. Ultimately, we believe our students are adaptable, will thrive and develop resiliency in any environment, and will make friends wherever they are placed.

Additionally, some students may require a change of placement based on academic needs, social and emotional supports, previous behavioral interactions, or conflictive peer relationships. The school administration will make those placement decisions based on the recommendations of counselors, teachers, administration, and coaches. If your child is one of those students who will be shifted based on these factors, Donald or Paula will be reaching out to you to discuss our decision.

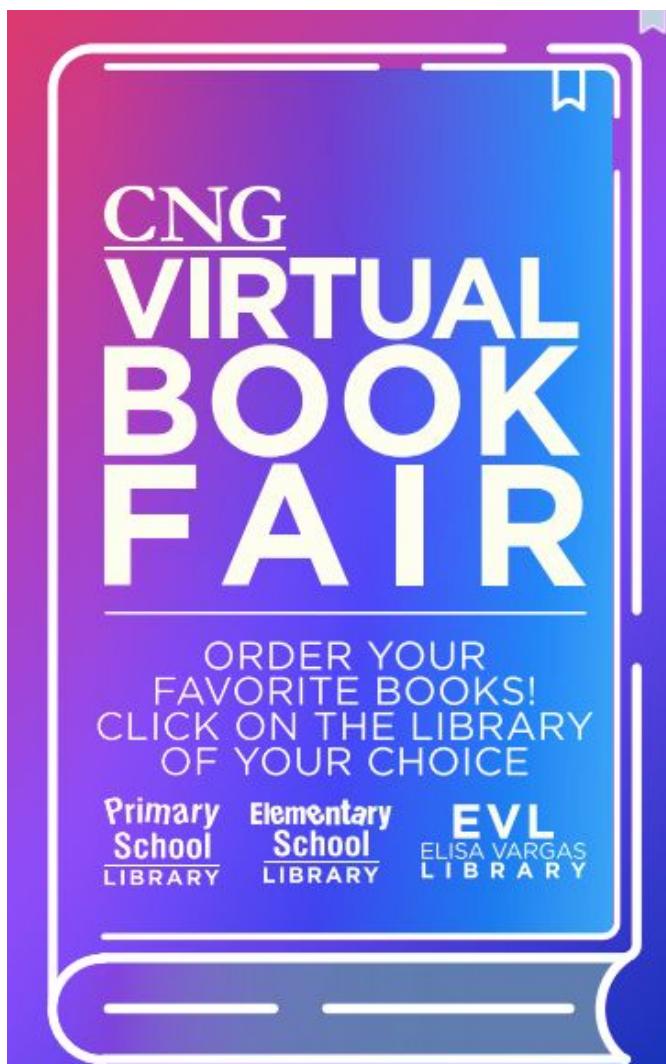
Again, these decisions will be based on ensuring a balanced and equitable distribution of students across the grade levels, as well as helping to relieve some of the trauma that has been created during this time of DL and quarantine. Thank you for your understanding and trust. We truly appreciate your support.

With Warmest Regards,

Donald Bertolo
Paula Perez

CNG Virtual Book Fair

We are very excited to announce that our first CNG Virtual Book Fair begins on Sunday night. Don't forget to click on the image and look for your favorite books.





[How meditation can help you stayed connected during Distance Learning \(Mindful Leader\)](#)

[Candid Conversations> Managing What's beyond our control \(Conscious Discipline\)](#)

[Socio emotional activities during Distance Learning](#)



Coffee with the Principal

Next Friday, May 08th, we will have our Coffee with the Principal at 11:00am

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94804750571?pwd=aDhpMTVyUmlLbG9xbEpoNWpBQWZzdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 0475 0571

Password: 049233

Read Alouds

Don't forget to visit Mr. B's Youtube Channel where he is doing daily Read Alouds.

Your children will enjoy them as well as you:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyKZHN4U2C6fl8YMdDngbuA>

Visit Mari Ro's Youtube Channel to access other fun read alouds



- **May 08-** Coffee with the Principal

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Meeting ID: 948 0475 0571

Password: 049233

- **May 10-** Mother's Day





*Most websites are adjustable for any grade level by selecting the appropriate level for your child.

Reading websites:

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
<https://www.spellingcity.com/>
<https://www.starfall.com/h/>
<https://quizlet.com/>
<https://freerice.com/categories/english-vocabulary>
<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

Math websites:

<https://www.ixl.com/>
<https://pages.sumdog.com/>
<https://www.youcubed.org/>

Reading & Math websites:

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/>
<https://skoolbo.com/>
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
<https://mrnussbaum.com/>
<https://mosamack.com/>
<https://www.softschools.com/>
<https://www.abcyia.com/>
<https://pbskids.org/>
<https://www.funbrain.com/>