



Dolphin Den Digest

February 2007: The Library Newsletter

“I’m a Good Listener Contest” for March

In order to promote the use of audio books, the library will be hosting a contest throughout the month of March. Any student who meets the goals listed below will receive a button, courtesy of Random House/Listening Library/Books on Tape that says, “I’m a good listener.”

Goals:

- K – 2: 5 picture book audio books **or**
1 chapter book and 2 picture book audio books
- 3 – 5: 3 chapter book audio books **or**
10 picture book audio books (5 of which must be nonfiction)

All audio books for the contest must be checked out from the Dove library between March 3rd and March 28th. All forms (see next column) must be turned in by March 31st.

Texas Bluebonnet Winners Selected

The 2008 Texas Bluebonnet winner is On the Road, part of the Down Girl and Sit series by Lucy Nolan. The book received 19,248 votes. The second place winner with 15,830 votes is The Ghost’s Grave by Peg Kehret. Third place also went to a ghost story. The Blue Ghost by Marion Dane Bauer was less than one hundred points behind the second place winner with 15,738 votes. All in all, 151,107 students across Texas voted to choose these winners.

I’m a Good Listener Contest Record Sheet

Name _____	Grade _____	Teacher _____
Title		Length (time)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

Parent Signature: _____

New Audio Book Format

Beginning in March, fourth and fifth graders will be introduced to a new audio book format known as a Playaway. This is basically a single-use MP3 player that contains one book. They allow students to listen to an audio book anywhere, anytime since there is no additional equipment required.

A recent grant from the GCISD Education Foundation allowed us to purchase twenty-six (26) Playaways. All are chapter books, some are fiction titles, and some are nonfiction titles.

The Playaways do require one AAA battery and earbuds or earphones. At this time, the library plans to supply all the batteries. If a student is still listening to the book and needs a new battery, he or she can simply stop by the library and I will replace the battery. Each student that would like to listen to a Playaway will need to supply his or her own earbuds or earphones. If a student does not own earbuds, the library will be selling some basic earbuds for \$5.00 apiece. The cost of the Playaways is comparable to a set of CDs (\$20 – \$90), but they should be less likely to be damaged. However, if you do not want your child to check out a Playaway, please inform your child of your decision.

Reading to Children

Excerpt from: Neuman, Susan B. “*Learning About Life Through BOOKS!*” Early Childhood Today. Vol. 21.4, Jan/Feb 2007: 34 – 43.

There's no best way to read to children, but several useful strategies are recommended to help children understand what you're reading while you're reading.

Model. Demonstrate through your actions. Every time you turn the page you can model how it's done. It doesn't hurt to be explicit about what you're doing: "Now I'm going to turn the page."

Think aloud. Talk about what you're thinking. This helps children to explore their own thinking. "Wow! I notice that these words sound the same. Cat and hat sound the same at the end."

Tell. Provide information. "Cows usually live on farms. They don't live in the jungle or in the forest."

Explain. Clarify something that might be confusing to children. "The caterpillar had a stomachache because he ate a lot of food. Sometimes our tummies hurt when we eat or drink too much."

Question. Ask questions to guide children's thinking in order to help them better understand: "How do you think the boy might feel when he realizes that his snowball has melted?" Questioning is a useful way to help develop critical thinking skills, which are necessary for problem solving and conflict resolution.