



Reading & Resource Newsletter

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This newsletter can be found on the St. Mary School Website~
Just Click the Title 1/Resource Link

What is DIBELS?

The teaching profession is loaded up with what I like to call alphabet soup-otherwise known as acronyms. Teachers & administrators use acronyms for just about any kind of testing modules, workbooks, resources, workshops, activities and more. DIBELS is one such word that comes to mind. DIBELS stands for **D**ynamic **I**ndicators of **B**asic **E**arly **L**iteracy **S**kills. This test is given three times a year (fall, winter, & spring) to every student in grades Kindergarten through 4th Grade at St. Mary School. It is part of the Response to Intervention program that identifies those students who may need additional instruction to become successful readers. Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Sloan and myself administered the DIBELS tests on September 29th & 30th.

DIBELS measures initial sound fluency, nonsense word fluency, oral reading fluency, retell fluency and word use fluency. The tests are very short in length and all responses are given orally. The reason the DIBELS test is given is to monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. After the scores are recorded, results will indicate if a child is on track to becoming a reader.

Starting a Story~

One of the skills noted for reading success is to predict. I have worked with many of the students to predict what they are about to read. This skill helps them to have a better idea of what they'll be reading. Before the students start a new story, one activity I implement is having the students predict what the story is about only by the title. Then I introduce the vocabulary words, and again we make a prediction about the story. Next, we look at the title page. Finally, we read the first page of the story to add to our initial prediction. It is enjoyable to see what ideas the students come up with, and it is even MORE enjoyable to watch the children come alive once they read the story and realize that their prediction was right. Sometimes it is the MOST enjoyable when they realize their prediction wasn't at all what they thought, but they sure like the story!

The KWL Chart~

I use the KWL chart a lot in my room. (Here we go again with acronyms!). The KWL chart is a chart I use to begin each new unit-especially in science and social studies. It stands for **W**hat I **K**now, **W**hat I **W**ant to know and **W**hat I **L**earned. At the end of the unit we go back to the chart to see if we found the answers out to 'what we wanted to know' and we complete the chart with all that we learned. It also makes for a great visual in the classroom during our unit.

Check Out This Book!

I was in the primary library the other day and a new book caught my eye. I picked it up and started reading it and just couldn't put it down! It is called *The Lemonade Club* by *Patricia Polacco*. It is about a little girl who has been diagnosed with cancer. This book tells about how the class helped her through this difficult time, yet no one seemed to really understand what her days were like, except the teacher. The teacher kept it a secret, but she too had cancer. The teacher always said to the class when life hands you a lemon or two today-what do you do? You make lemonade! This is a very touching story. I have a friend who has an eleven year old step-daughter who is currently going through radiation and chemotherapy for bone cancer. I have ordered this book to give it to this brave girl I know. I am so thankful I took a few minutes the other day to look around the primary library at St. Mary School.

Monthly Contact~Paper or Website?

I will be posting a monthly newsletter to keep St. Mary School families informed of the happenings in the Title I/Resource room. My hope is that all families will visit this page because the skills I work on in my room can assist all readers from beginning to advance. If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the Title 1/Resource Newsletter-please let me know, otherwise it will be posted at the beginning of each month.

Parting Thought~

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book. *Groucho Marx (1890-1977)*