

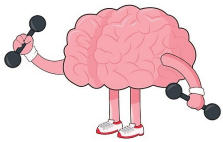
## Reading Is Important for Children's Growth

Reading is good for kids. There are many benefits of reading. Reading strengthens brain activity by working your brain muscles across different areas such as comprehension, analytical abilities, stimulates memories, and broadens your imagination. Reading improves communication skills by building vocabulary by exposing children to new words that can help them to better express themselves. Children are exposed to different cultures, events, and people which will allow children to make more connections to the world around them and understand different cultures and difficult events in real life. Reading reduces stress and increases relaxation. Creativity is enhanced by reading and Reading entertains taking you to fictional and real worlds in the past and present.

To help children to become readers, make reading books a part of the family routine. They can read alone, or read as a family, but most importantly encourage all reading. Become

your child's role model for reading. Books can be downloaded onto a library app or eBooks. To encourage reading, get library cards for the family from the local library and visit often. Take a book on car rides or to visits for appointments for the waiting rooms. Carry books with you for unexpected downtime which can be used for reading. Start your new adventure today with a book.

### Reading



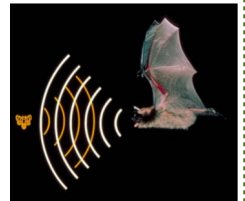
**strengthens  
my brain!**

## LIL Cats Literacy and STEM



The LIL Cats students read the book Stellaluna by Janell Cannon. The children were fascinated

about the book and Stellaluna. After reading the book and discussion, the students engaged in activities in the



gym to learn more about echolocation which bats use to locate their prey and to navigate. Students



worked with a partner navigate with echolocation.

## Veteran's Day



Every year students of Hannan Trace Elementary invite local veterans into their school for a Veteran's Day assembly. Students

want show their respect and appreciation to all the veterans. The afterschool students helped by creating wreaths that will be used as decorations for the assembly.



Jan.31—Advisory meeting

Feb. 17—Winterfest Family Event

March 8—Literacy Night

April 10— Ventriloquist Doug Mickan

April 12— Last day of afterschool



## Grandma Gatewood Book Walk

On October 19, 2024, the afterschool program sponsored a book walk on the grounds of Bob Evan's Farms in Rio Grande. As the families signed in for the book walk, each child received a trick-or-treat bag to gather prizes throughout the walk. Families read Hopefully the Scarecrow by Michelle

Houts which lead the families to the log cabins. Stations were set up in the log cabins for families to visit with our guests and get the experiences that the cabins had to offer from artifacts to visual displays. The sessions that families visited were the Easter Seals and Imagination Library, Bossard Library, Gallia County Literacy Grant, Grandma Gatewood's Granddaughter with memorabilia, Gallipolis City School's FFA, and the author, Michelle Houts, of Grandma Gatewood took a Walk for an autographed book. Mr. Larry Carter provided soup beans cooked over the fire for everyone. When the families turned in their exit surveys the children received a Jacob's Ladder and a STEM puzzle which they added to their bag of treasures that included at least 2 books. The event had a great turn out with over 100 families in attendance.



## Big Pumpkin Story Walk Family Engagement

On October 7, 2023, LIL Cats partnered with the Title 1 Reading program to sponsor a literacy engagement with families called The Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman at the school's fall carnival. Parents and children were greeted at the door by a witch and her caldron. Families entered the building to read the book

posted in the hallways and illuminated by spooky lighting. They also had a sequencing station to be completed. Everyone enjoyed the event and appreciated all the hard work that was put forth.





## Family Christmas Show

### Ventriloquist Show with Doug Mickan



On December 14, 2023, the Afterschool Programs partnered with the Bossard Memorial Library to host a Christmas program for elementary schools. Families were invited to attend one of two shows at 6:30pm or 7:30 pm. Families had the opportunity to have pictures with the Jolly ole man Santa Claus before and after the show. All the children had made Santa's good list. During the show Doug Mickan used several dummies to keep the audiences attention during an exciting and hilarious show. Each dummy used had their own unique voice and personality. A part of the program requested participation from the audience and several students were able to share the stage with Mr. Michan. After the show, drawings for crocheted reindeer were given away. As the audience left the show, they received several prizes. We have invited Doug back in the spring to perform for the schools.



### Pottery Place

On Thursday, November 14, The Pottery Place from Huntington visited the Afterschool Program bringing with them paint, brushes and Christmas items for the children to paint. After the children's pieces were painted the Pottery Place took them to fire them in the kiln. The children's pieces were returned to them to take home.



### OSU Snap-ED

Tina Elkins, OSU Snap-Ed agent, visited the LIL Cats to discuss healthy eating. She teaches them how to measure, read labels, and prepare healthy meals for the family. During this activity the students learned how to make pasta primavera & beef ramen.



