



HIGHLANDERS



Southwestern Elementary

Site Coordinator: Mr. Chris Burnette

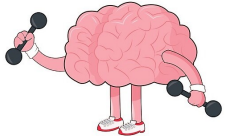
December 2023

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!**

Pumpkins

Students love decorating pumpkins as a fall activity. Pumpkins are purchased from a local grower and delivered to the schools. Students then get to use their creativity and paint to create a unique piece of fall decoration for their home.



Highlanders Reading Fun

These Highlanders are making good use of a beautiful Fall day. They picked up their books and ventured out to find a perfect spot to read outside of the school. Students spend 2 hours a week in the after-school program on reading skills and 2 hours on Math during the first half of the program. Reading is a skill that students will benefit from for the rest of their life. Adventures await each and everyone.



IMPORTANT
Announcements

February 1 Advisory Meeting
April 11— Doug Mickan Ventriloquist
April—Last day of Afterschool



Cooking with SNAP-Ed



Tina Elkins, SNAP-Ed instructor through OSU Extension office provides an extensive 6 series cooking course to the afterschool programs for 4th and 5th graders. During these classes students learn the basic cooking skills to prepare delicious dishes to eat. These skills include using cooking tools, food preparation, substitutes, and nutritious foods and snacks. Students use their reading and math skills to read recipes, measure, increase or decrease recipes serving sizes or dishes to accommodate the number of people for the meal. Throughout the course the class discusses how little changes can make a big difference in becoming a healthier person. On the 6th class, parents were invite to join their student's class. The observed their child help prepare a meal of one pot spaghetti and a Chocolate surprise cup cake. Students served their parents then sat with them to enjoy their homecooked meal. Parents were informed that very small changes in cooking such as substituting ingredients in recipes will lead to a healthier life style. Healthy eating is important because it makes you feel better and helps children to be more alert. Being more alert in the classroom makes learning easier in the classroom. After her 6 series of cooking classes, Mrs. Elkins has invited a speaker a week to visit and different aspects of little life changes such as physical activity, growing food, etc. to become a healthier person.



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.



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.



Pottery Place



On Thursday, November 8, The Pottery Place from Huntington visited the Afterschool Program bringing with them paint, brushes and Fall items for the children to paint. After the children's pieces were

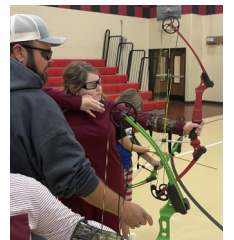


finished the Pottery Place took them to fire them in the kiln. The children's pieces were returned to them to take home .



Archery

The Highlanders are enjoying their archery course by Eric Clarey. Eric is with the Conservation Club and works closely with Soil and Water. Archery helps to improve focus, hand-eye coordination, improves upper arm strength, as well as improves social skills and confidence in the builds confidence. They have an eye for archery.



Healthy Cooking Family Engagement

