

Want Readers?



Engage the Community!



Rita & John

- ritaplatt@hotmail.com
- john.wolfe@mpls.k12.mn.us
- <http://www.weteachwelearn.org/tag/rita-platt/>
- <http://3csedu.wixsite.com/3cconsultinged>
- @ritaplatt
- @johnwolfe3rd

- *Rita Platt is a Nationally Board Certified teacher. Her experience includes teaching learners of all levels from kindergarten to graduate student. She currently is a Library Media Specialist for the St. Croix Falls SD in Wisconsin, teaches graduate courses for the Professional Development Institute, and consults with local school districts.*
- *John Wolfe is a teacher on special assignment for the Multilingual Department at the Minneapolis Public School District. He has worked with students at all levels as well as provided professional development to fellow teachers. His areas of expertise include English Language Learners, literacy, and integrated technology.*

My Wonderful School



Standard Press
 Thursday, December 8, 2016 \$1.00
 St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
 PC-LEDGER.COM E-EDITION

St. Croix Falls "exceeds expectations"

By Reid A Gacke

The St. Croix Falls Elementary School has received many awards in recent years. For one, they have been named as a 2016 Title I School of Recognition. Since 2005, the Department of Public Instruction has recognized Title I eligible schools which have, under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, met the following criteria: are in the top quartile of the state for the percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch; have above-average student academic performance on state test scores in reading and mathematics when compared to similar schools; all into one of the top three Accountability Index categories on the School Report Card; and meet the state's test-participation, attendance and dropout goals.

The elementary school library has won two Standing Up for Rural Schools Awards from the Wisconsin State Department of Education. The first, in 2014, was for collaboration with the St. Croix Falls Public Library and the second, in 2015, for collaboration with the volunteer group Reading Friends and Northern Waters Learning. This award was given for the work done to raise reading achievement during and beyond the school year.

One of the teachers, Rita Platt, was honored with a Kohl Fellowship for teaching excellence in 2015. This award came with a cash prize which was used to fund professional development for St. Croix Falls teachers.

Additionally, the school has earned two national grants. One was from the National Education Association for \$5,500 to fund teacher education in best practices in teaching reading. The other was from author James Patterson and Scholastic Books. The amount of \$3,000 was given to keep the free bookcase in the back of the library open so that the school can continue to fill home libraries.

Also, the school has been represented at two national journals in education. Principal Jeff Berry and librarian Platt co-authored an article in Educational Leadership. The collaborative project with Reading Friends was featured article in the School Library Journal.

St. Croix Falls Elementary School has also been represented at several local national conferences. These conferences include the Wisconsin Reading Association Conference, the Minnesota Department of Education Conference, WEMEA and others. - submitted

Two brothers gain rank of 4th grade...
 comments on water main project...
 Department of Natural Resources issued...
 Croix Falls is a loan applicant for funding...
 Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP)...
 iciencies in their public drinking water...
 project is for water main replacements...
 actions normally do not involve significant...
 mental effects and the Department...
 preliminary determination that no further...
 analysis is needed before proceeding...
 projects...
 is soliciting public comments regarding...
 potential impacts of these projects...
 all comments are encouraged. Provide...
 (pt. pg. 3)

Backpack Program...
 Foundation received a donation to...
 Program from the St. Croix Falls Lions...
 of November. The donation was raised...
 of Lions Club fundraisers done...
 of these fundraisers

Student achievement and the scores each are from test scores. St. Croix Falls School District St. Croix Falls School District significantly surpassed state averages in every category with its highest score in on-track and postsecondary readiness. It received a 91.9 against a state average of 86.6. Student achievement was rated at 80.1 against a state average of 67.5 while "student growth" (Exceeds cont. pg. 2)

Overall Score: 79.0
 Exceeds Expectations
 ★★★★★

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9
Meets Expectations	63-72.9
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9

The St. Croix Falls School District, as well as the elementary, middle and high schools, received high marks on their report cards, either meeting expectations or exceeding them.

St. Croix Falls Elementary receives multiple awards

ST. CROIX FALLS—The St. Croix Falls Elementary School has received many awards in recent years. For one, they have been named as a 2016 Title I School of Recognition. Since 2005, the Department of Public Instruction has recognized Title I eligible schools which have, under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, met the following criteria: are in the top quartile of the state for the percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch; have above-average student academic performance on state test scores in reading and mathematics when compared to similar schools; all into one of the top three Accountability Index categories on the School Report Card; and meet the state's test-participation, attendance and dropout goals.

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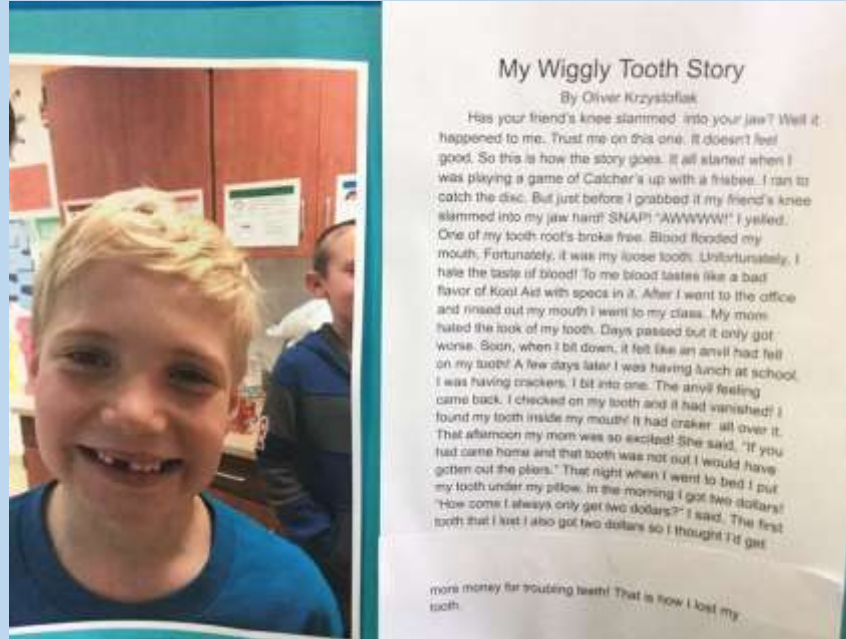
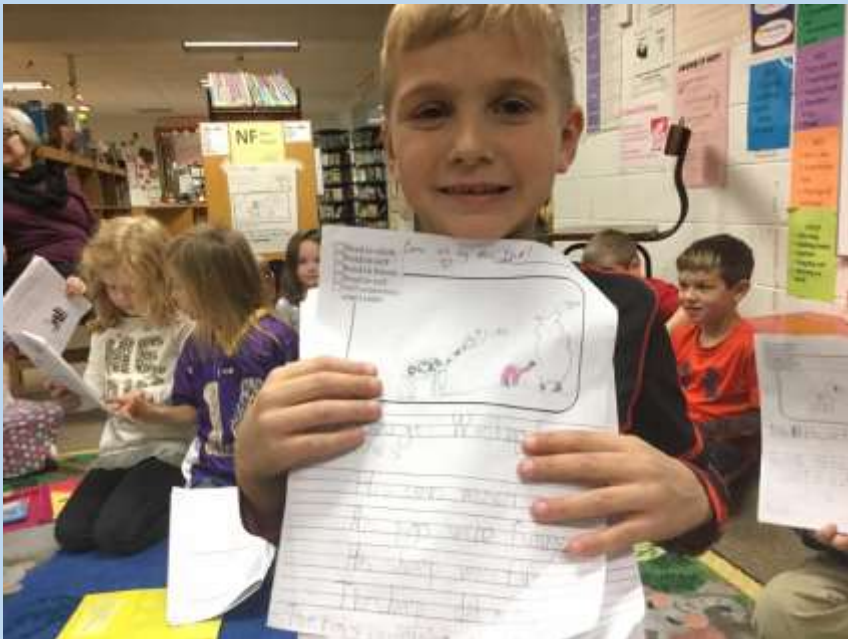
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Our mission is to help all students become independent and successful learners. Remember, a Saint C.A.R.E.

ST. CROIX FALLS ELEMENTARY • DRESSER ELEMENTARY

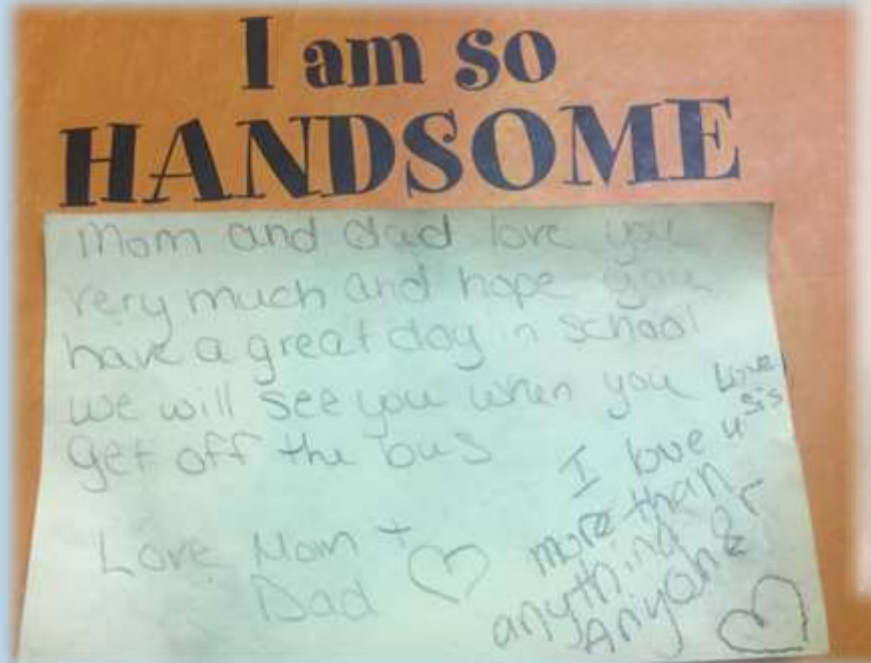
Foundational Beliefs

- When the community supports your goals, your work is easier.
- Community engagement projects needn't be complex.
- Sometimes just about nurturing mutual understanding, support, and love.
- Public schools need good press!



Turn and Talk!

- What does “community engagement” mean to you?
- Do you have enough?



Turn and Talk Checklist

- I turned to my partner.
- I answered the question.
- My partner answered the question.

BONUS

- I added more!

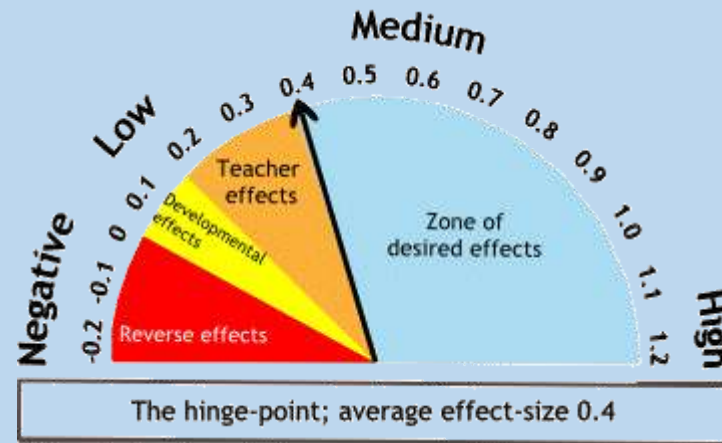
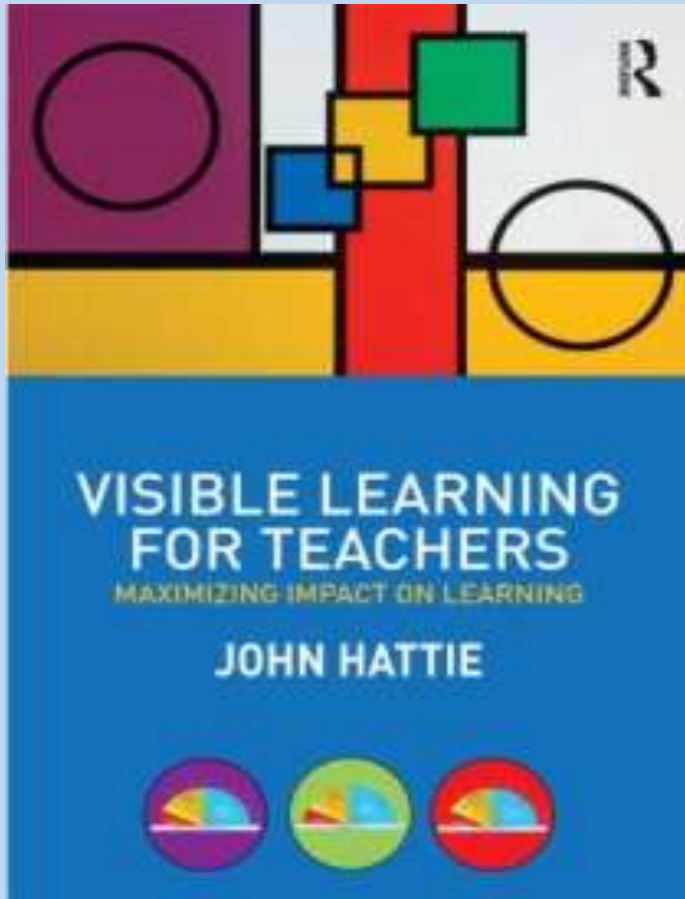
- Do you want more?
- What strategies do you use?

Types / Levels of Involvement

TYPE	CHARACTERISTIC & EXAMPLES
Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talks with children about the importance of school.• Backs school rules.• Helps children with homework and organization.
Communicative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Returns paperwork.• Responds to calls and texts.• Interacts with social media (even just to read it.)• Reads letters at home.
Attends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comes to parent-teacher conferences.• Comes in the school to drop off or pick up students.• Comes to family nights or other planned events.• Attends sports events.
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps teacher(s) in the classroom.• Assists with field trips or other events.• Helps teacher(s) by doing work at home (cutting, stapling, helping organize, etc.)• Does guest presentations.
Advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attends PTA or other parent-group meetings.• Hosts afterschool clubs or coaches teams.• Sets up events.• Participates on committees.



Hattie on Parental Involvement



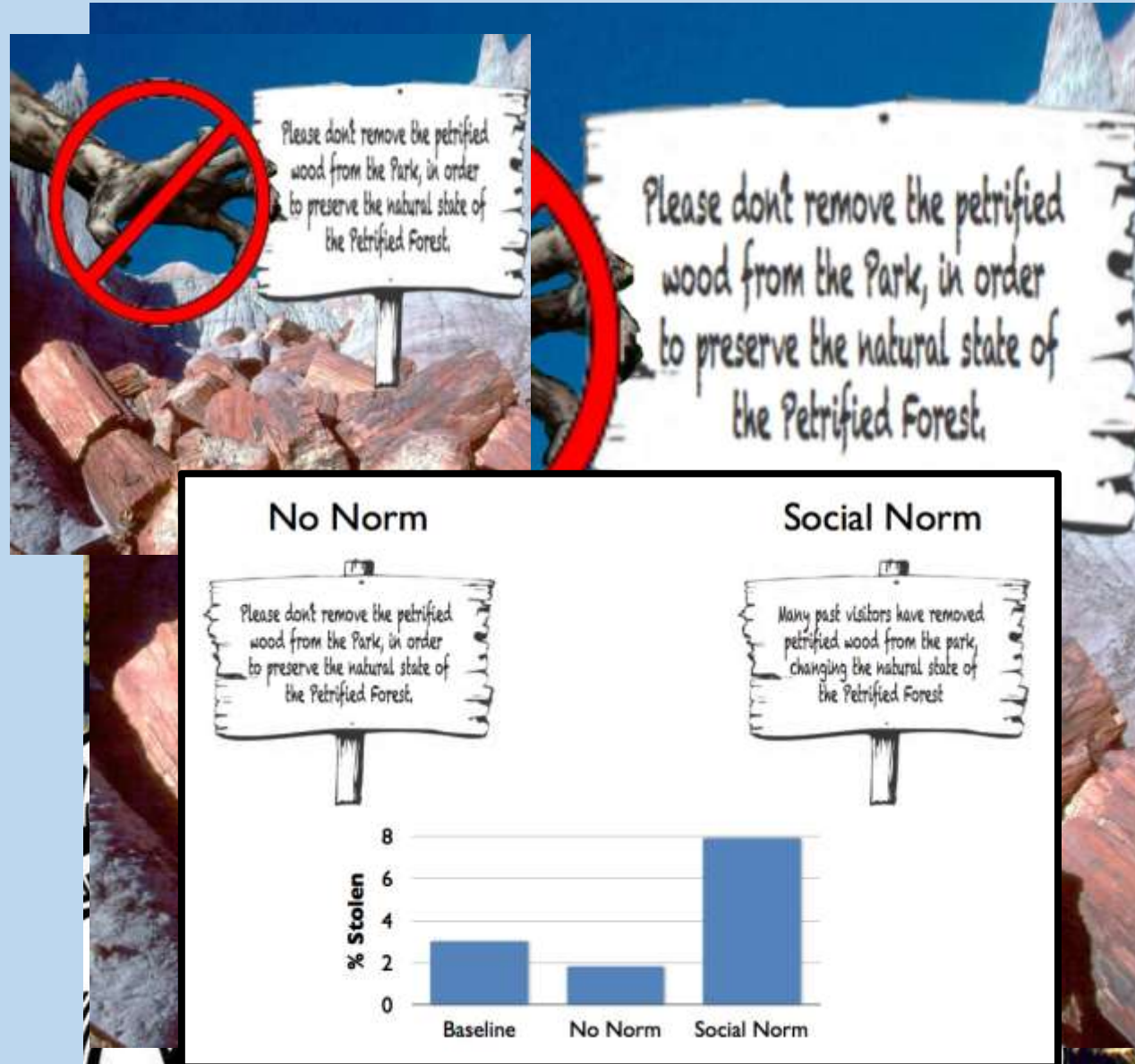
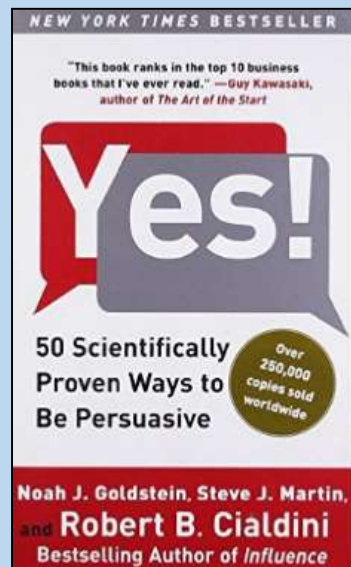
Parent aspirations were the most important influence on their children's achievement, whereas parental supervision in the forms of monitoring students' homework, time watching television, and time going out with friends appeared to have a negative effect.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING: High Aspirations Good: High Pressure Bad

From John Hattie's *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement* (2009, Routledge)

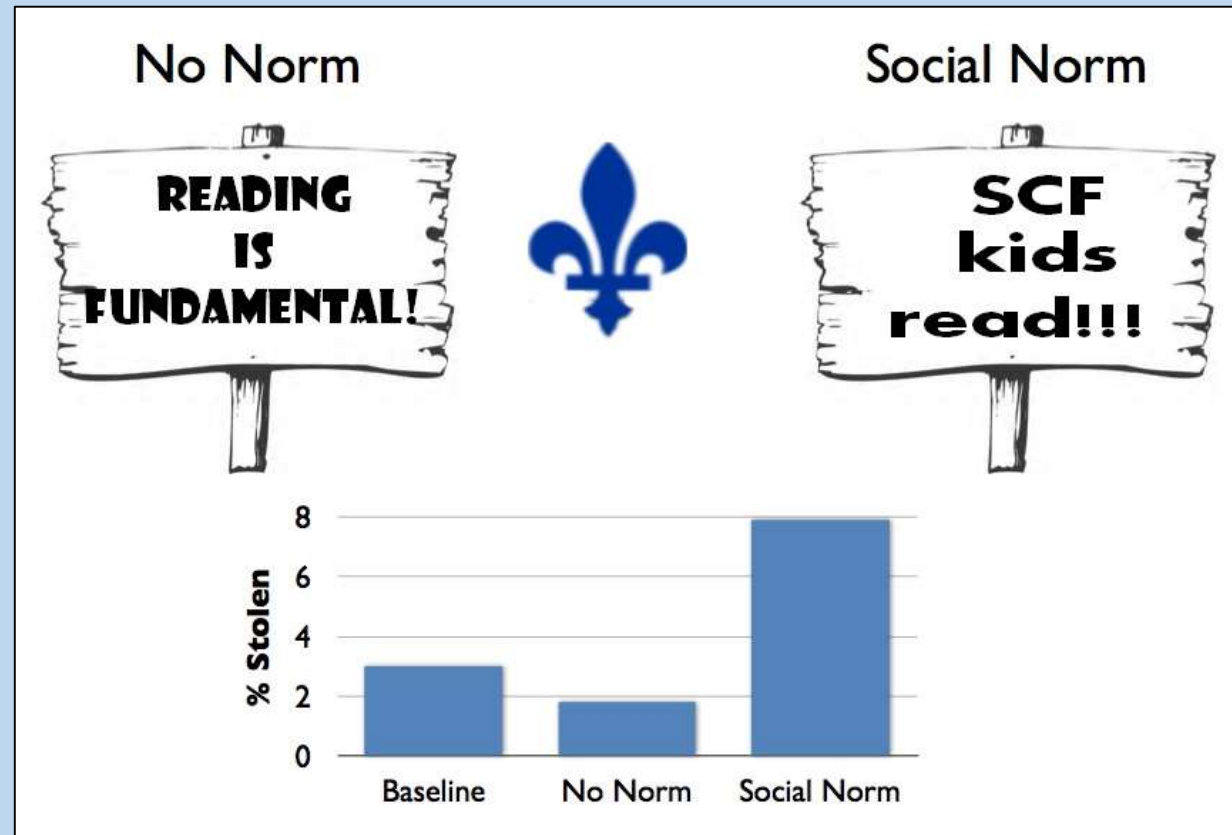
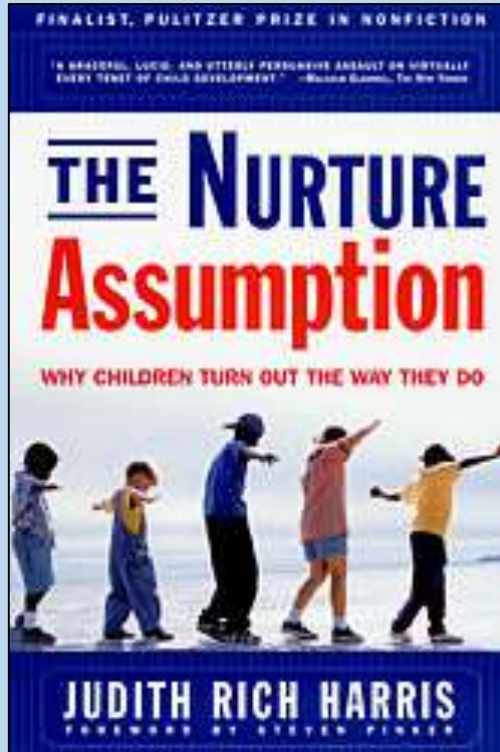
Cialdini on “Social Proof”

“People tend to follow the most popular course of action.”



Harris on “Group Socialization”

Children see their job **NOT** as learning to be like adults.
They see their job as learning to be **LIKE SLIGHTLY OLDER KIDS.**



In St. Croix Falls we.....



....read!

It is what we do.

It is a social norm.

Kids conform to it.

A Bunch of Ideas!

- Some are easy...
- Some are REALLY HARD!
- Links at the bottom of most pages.
- I talk fast.
- Tell me to slow down and settle down.
- JUMP in and interrupt! (I am a teacher, I am used to it!)

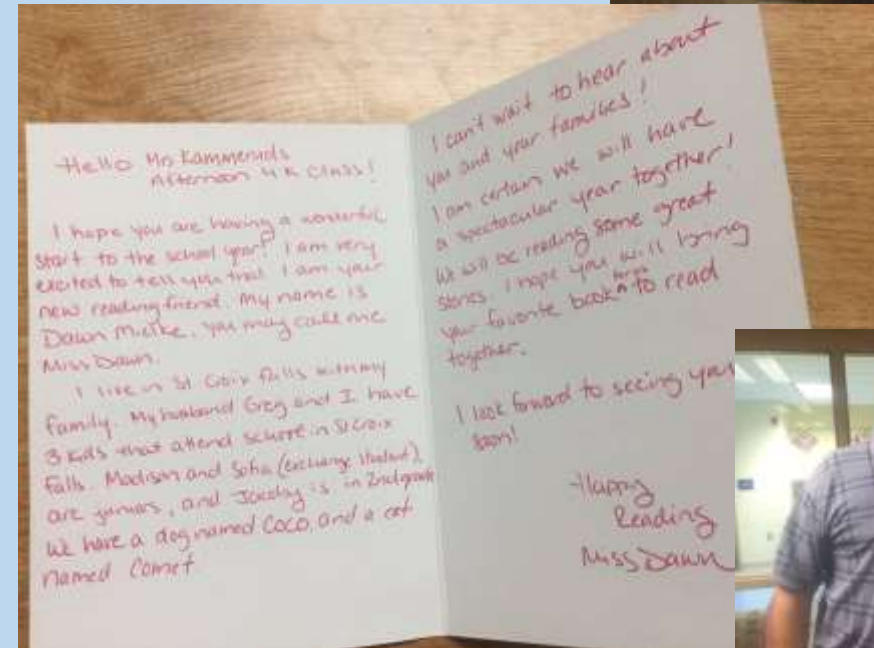


Reading Friends

- Comprehensive reading support program
- 35-47 retirees and stay-at-home parents
- Volunteers read with 70+ below-grade-level readers and ALL 4K, K, and 1st graders
- Weekly for 15 minutes to half an hour
- Data on student achievement is inconclusive...but, that's NOT why I spend the time...
- It's about sharing the school with the community and great PR

<http://www.slj.com/2015/02/programs/program-spotlight-reading-friends-initiative-pairs-retirees-with-young-students/>

<http://www.programminglibrarian.org/programs/reading-friends-tutoring>



Northern Waters Learning

- Summer Reading Tutoring
- Volunteers from the Community
- Serve ~70 Students
- A GREAT deal of work
- STOPPED summer slide in 75% of students, of those more than half INCREASED achievement!
- Read To Lead Grant for early childhood classrooms and children aged 0-4 (play groups, home visits, free little library, texts to parents, parent education classes, laundry basket cuteness!)



Books Without Borders

Explore our amazing world through books! Books play a pivotal role in getting us outside of our comfort zones. Read on & see what you can discover!



READ A BOOK ABOUT SOMEONE WHO LOOKS DIFFERENT THAN YOU.



READ A NON-FICTION BOOK ABOUT A DIFFERENT COUNTRY.



READ A BIOGRAPHY OF SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN A FAR-AWAY PLACE.



READ A NOVEL IN VERSE.

READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL THAT TAKES PLACE IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE.



READ A BOOK ABOUT A CURRENT WORLD CONFLICT.



READ A BOOK THAT DEALS WITH A CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUE.

READ A BOOK CHOSEN BY EITHER MS. PLATT OR MARTHA—SCFPL



READ A BOOK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.

- How it Works:*
- 1. Read: February 1–23*
 - 2. Turn in this sheet on the 23rd to Martha or Ms. Platt*
 - 3. 10 Winners will receive an invitation to dinner on February 28th at Ms. Platt's House!*



Complete 6 of the 9 challenges & be entered for a chance to attend a cultural home-cooked meal with your favorite librarians!

Name & Grade:



ST. CROIX FALLS public library
 Wisconsin - 54981

*Explore our amazing world through books!
 Books play a pivotal role in getting us outside of our comfort zones.
 Read on & see what you can discover!*

Books without BORDERS

Complete 8 of the 12 challenges & be entered for a chance to attend dinner with your favorite librarians at *The Vegetarian!*

The Vegetarian!

Name & Phone:

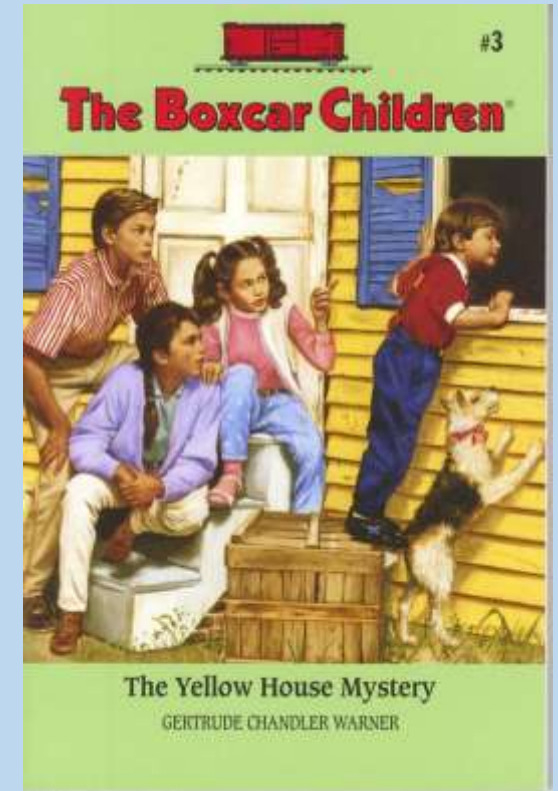
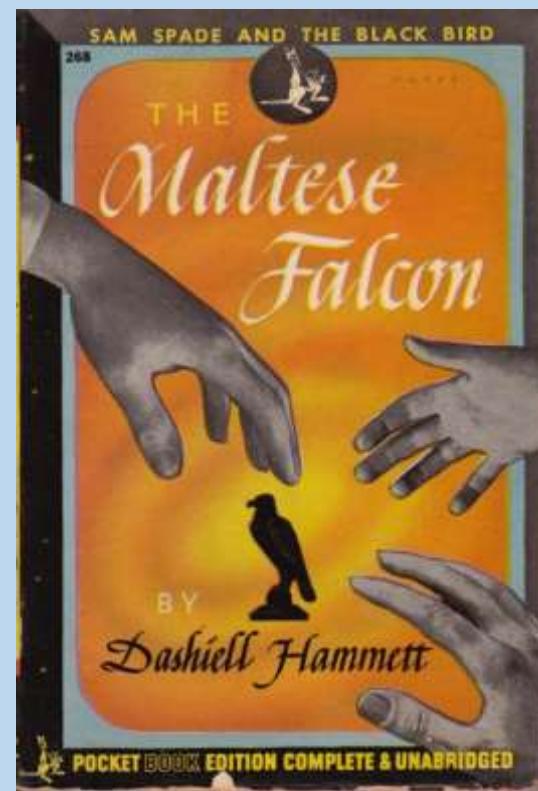
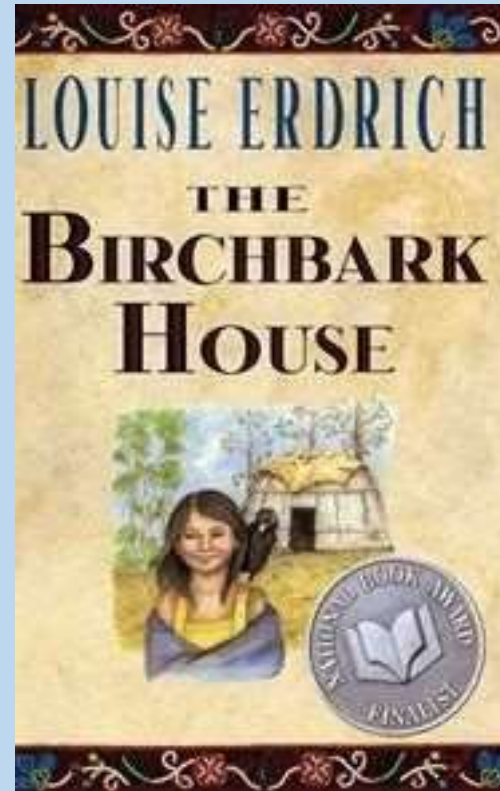
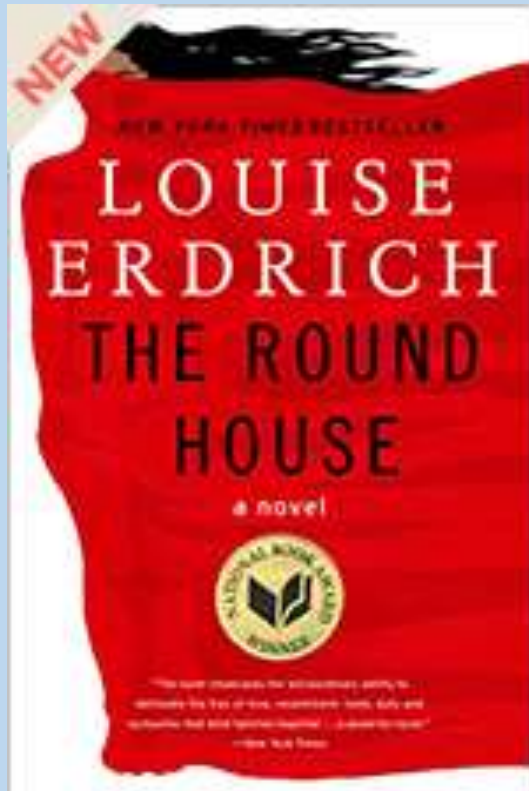
How it Works:

1. Read: February 1-23
2. Turn in this sheet on the 23rd to Martha @ SCFPL or Ms. Platt
3. 3 Winners will receive an invitation to dinner at *The Vegetarian* with Rita & Martha!

- READ A BOOK ABOUT SOMEONE WITH A DIFFERENT ETHNIC BACKGROUND THAN YOU.
- READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL THAT TAKES PLACE IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE.
- READ A BIOGRAPHY ABOUT SOMEONE WHO IS OF A DIFFERENT GENDER.
- READ A NON-FICTION BOOK ABOUT A CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUE.
- READ A BOOK OF POETRY WRITTEN BY SOMEONE FROM A FAR-AWAY PLACE.
- READ A NON-FICTION BOOK ABOUT NATURE OR THE ENVIRONMENT.
- READ A BOOK WITH AN OPPOSING VIEWPOINT ON AN ISSUE YOU CARE ABOUT.
- LIBRARIAN'S CHOICE! SEE RITA OR MARTHA FOR SUGGESTIONS!
- READ A NOVEL ABOUT SOMEONE WHO IS OF A DIFFERENT AGE THAN YOU ARE.
- READ A BOOK THAT YOUR CHILD RECOMMENDS FROM THEIR LIST & DISCUSS!
- READ & MAKE SOMETHING FROM AN ETHNIC COOKBOOK.
- READ A BOOK ABOUT A CULTURAL RITUAL YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

Big Read/Little Read

- <http://www.neabigread.org/>





Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 27 May 2016

Community book discussion w/ Pts, Trs, a board member, & Stsl @scfschools @CZrostlik



IditaREAD 2017

Family and Team Literacy! St. Croix Falls Public and School Libraries
Join the race to Nome and celebrate teams that read together!



Sign up for the 2017 IditaREAD!



Come to the St. Croix Falls Public Library for the...

IDITAREAD KICK OFF PARTY!

Saturday, March 12th at 1 PM.

We will recap the race start, check-up on our mushers' progress, do some fun Iditarod crafts, and watch the movie Snow Dogs!

Questions? Email mkaempffer@stcroixfallslibrary.org

What is IditaREAD?

The Iditarod is a 1,049 mile race through the cold Alaskan tundra. This year, let's participate in the race! Your family or team will read, read, read. The sled dog teams will mush, mush, mush! Who will get to Nome first? The musher you choose (in miles), or your reading team (in minutes spent reading)? Sign up at school or at the event!



... sled dog race through the cold Alaskan tundra. This year, let's participate in the race! Your team will read, read, read. The sled dog teams will mush, mush, mush! Who will get to Nome first? The musher you choose (in miles), or your reading team (in minutes spent reading)?

minutes before your musher finishes the Iditarod race and win!

... about the Iditarod & for your family or team to enjoy reading together & on your own.

... from the provided list, check up on his or her progress using the website below. *Keep track of how many minutes your family or on your team reads. For each 10 minutes read by anyone fill in one circle on your*

POES

- Activity Nights
- Summer Reading Programs
- Wish List
- PR & Activism Surrounding Literacy
- Goodwill!

Let's keep a list of things we need and want...we'll find the money....

New ideas:

1. Authors to come visit
2. Promethean boards for 4 k rooms
3. Rugs for reading corners (Kelsey)
4. Leveled nonfiction (Lindsay)--RITA
5. Book shelves (Dana)--RITA
6. Drying rack paintings (Jen)
7. 10 sleds
8. 10 pairs of pants
9. Donations of mittens and hats
10. 50 lbs of birdseed
11. oils

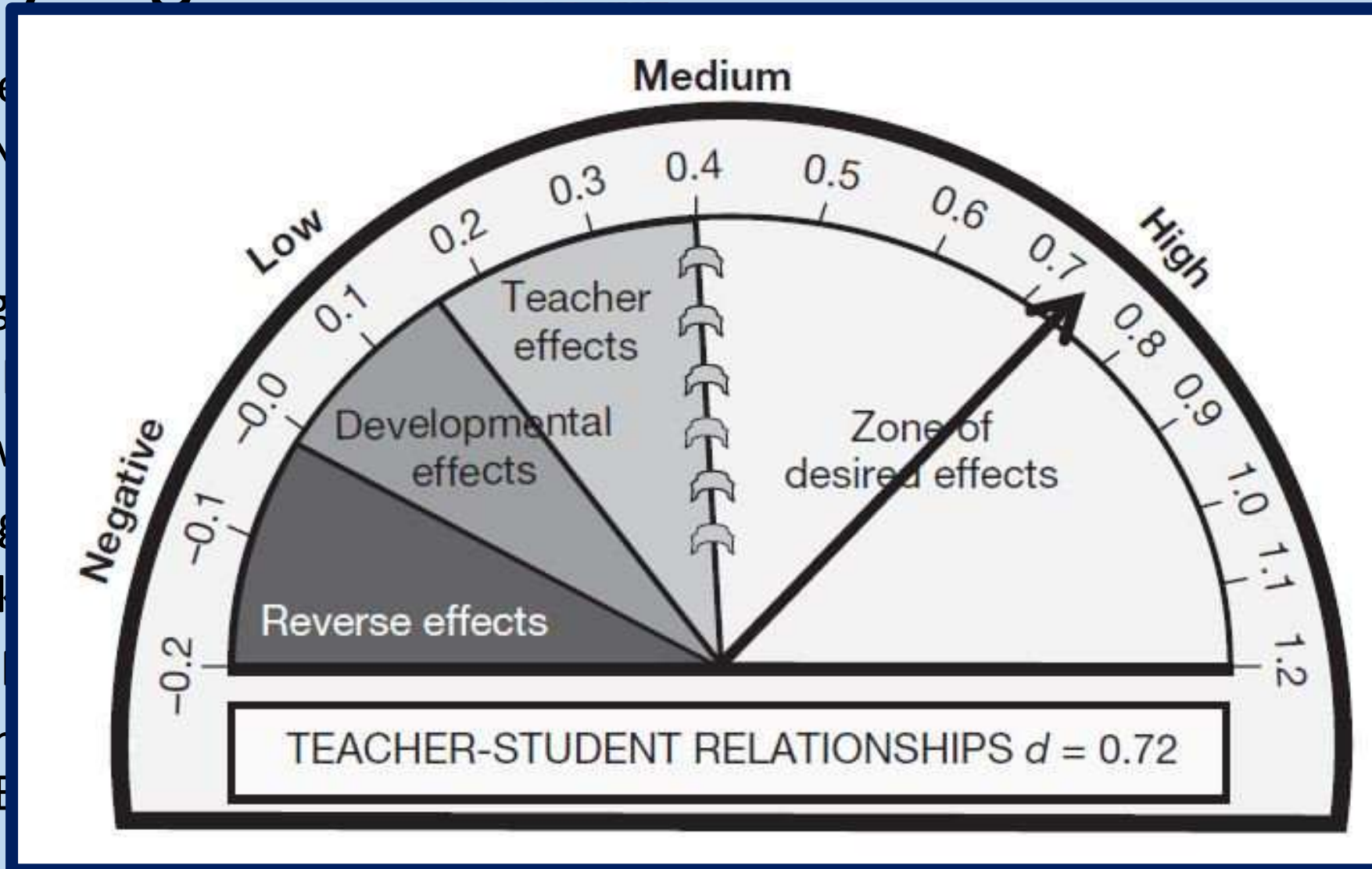
Already bought:

1. snowshoes (25 pairs) approx \$1,700--PE (Done)
2. Frog Materials (\$85 Each, 2 sets for 4 classrooms) 1st grade (Done)
3. box fan for art room (drying out clay projects)--(Done)
4. Promethean boards for special ed & art
5. Materials, soil, seeds to start a small Dresser "Kinder" garden (done)
6. More comfy chairs DONE
7. Enough mouses for 4th Chrome Books DONE
8. Low level books for Lumby & Kirchner DONE
9. Lots of books, level all books. book boxes for Lumby DONE
10. White boards w/ staff (Caitlyn) DONE
11. White boards w/ staff (Caitlyn) DONE
12. Oil diffuser (Kels) DONE
- 13.



Family Nights

- Science
- Math N
- Parent
- Art Nig
- Music
- Read w
- ELA Nig
- Potluck
- Game
- What r
- CONNE



where I just
for hours and share
talk about
a big
to share and I
s sat in small
We all introduced
e of get-to-know-
formed. I
nd I felt like
ole person rather
ol, as some
ally helped build
ed all year in my



Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 9 Apr 2016
 #ShowUsYourLibrary Sleepover for super readers!



Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 28 Feb 2016
 A3: Family Game Night! No pressure just FUN together! #txeduchat



Retweet 1 Like 1



Rita Platt @ritaplatt · Jan 17
 Family Math Night fun! @scfschools @SCFWPL



Retweet 1 Like 4

Positive Phone Calls Initiative



- SIP Goal
- Minimum of 2 positive phone calls/texts/notes/chat messages per teacher per month

<http://www.weteachwelearn.org/2015/07/positive-phone-calls-to-parents-is-like-money-in-the-bank/>

Sample Phone Call Home Script 1:

Hello Ms. _____. This is Ms. _____ calling to share good news about your son! This week he was in class on time every day and really participated well in class! I am so happy to have him as a student. Please feel free to call me anytime. I love working with families.

Sample Phone Call Home Script 2:

Hi, this is Mr. _____ calling to tell you how much I enjoy having your daughter in my class! This week she volunteered to read aloud from the textbook and I was so impressed with her bravery. Thank you for letting me work with her this year. Let me know if there is ever anything I can help you with.

Sample Phone Call Home Script 3:

Hello Ms. _____. This is Mr. _____ calling to tell you that _____ earned an "A" on his assignment this week! He is proud of himself and he should be. Thank you! You clearly have taught him to value education. Please feel free to call me anytime. I love working with families.

Texts

- Preferred method of communication for many people
- If phone calls freak you out, texts are easier
- Remind.com



Stanford Report, November 17, 2014

Stanford 'tips-by-text' program helps boost literacy in preschoolers, study finds

Researchers found that the texts, which prompted parents to engage in literacy activities with their children, had a positive impact on learning.

BY MAY WONG

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2014/november/texting-literacy-tips-111714.html>

Facebook/Instagram/Snap Chat/Twitter

- Social media is where parents are!
- Find out what is used in your community

thank you for who you are!!

Today

 **Rita Platt** 8:57am

Oh my word! Row just passed a \$5 book! It was at the 4th grade level! SO PROUD OF HIM!

Today

 **Anne Marie Sinclear-Prokop** 6:04pm

Ohhhhhh I ❤️ this soooo much!!! Celebration!!! Thank you for this message !!!

I glanced aand saw it pop up this morning at work but I was so busy at the time I couldn't get to it ---and then rowan just reminded me just now and I shrieked with happiness again!!! 🐛 (that's a book worm not a Catapillar)

Sent from Messenger



Saint Croix Falls & Dresser Elementary Schools
School

Create Call to Action Liked Message

Timeline About Photos Likes More

171 likes +1 this week
Angle Young and 97 other friends

76 post reach this week

Invite friends to like this Page

Find New Customers
Connect with more of the people who matter to you
Promote Page

ABOUT

The SCF ES loves to connect with the community! Check in for news, celebrations, and other information.

<http://www.scf.k12.wi.us/> Promote Website

PHOTOS

Every Hero Has a Story - June 2013

Every Hero Has a Story - July 2013

200 MINUTES

200 MINUTES

200 MINUTES

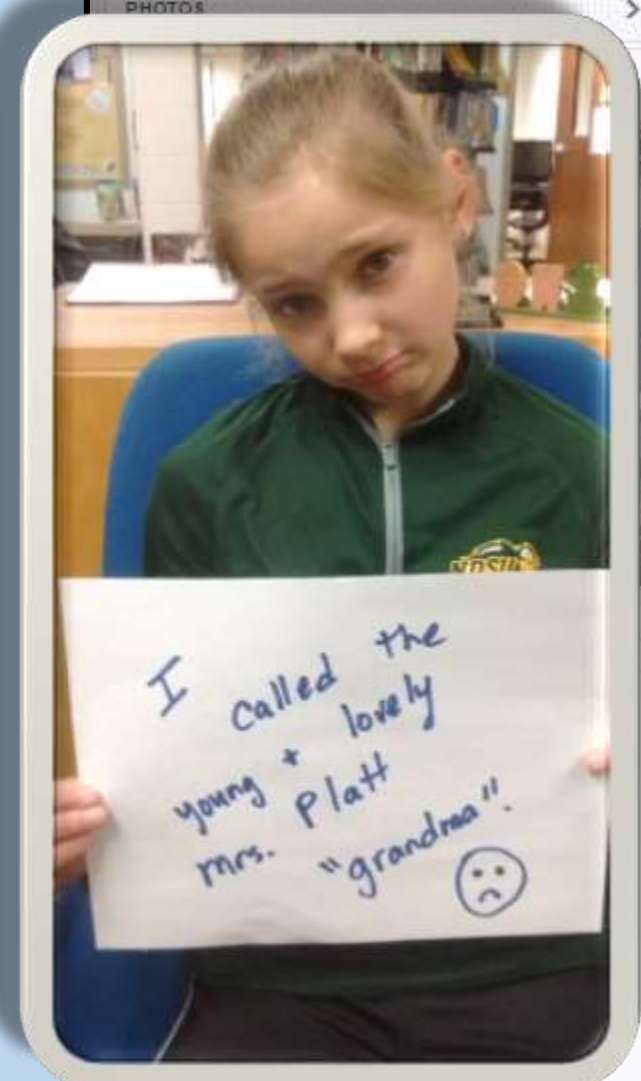
200 MINUTES

SCF ES Facebook

- Struggle to get approved
- Now have 400+ followers (more each day)
- Teachers message parents real-time

<http://www.weteachwelearn.org/2015/07/teachers-its-time-to-rethink-your-weekly-letter/>

The screenshot displays the Facebook profile for Saint Croix Falls & Dresser Elementary Schools. The page header includes the school name, a search bar, and navigation links for Rita, Home, and other users. The main content area features a post by Rita Platt from August 26, 2015, with the text "Dresser Staff is ready for some learning fun - even on the playground." and a photograph of children playing on a playground slide. The post has reached 263 people and includes a "Boost Post" button. Below the post are "Like", "Comment", and "Share" buttons. The footer of the page includes "English (US) · Privacy · Terms · Cookies · Advertising · Ad Choices · More · Facebook © 2015".





Saint Croix Falls & Dresser Elementary Schools
 Published by Rita Platt [?] · December 1, 2016 · 🌐

I met my reading goal!



Rita Platt
 November 1, 2015 · 🌐

Met my goal! Parents, tell your kids, I meet my personal reading goals just like I encourage them to. 😊

📍 Tag Photo 📍 Add Location ✎ Edit

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

👤 Cole Zrostlik, Erin Kessler and 14 others

Debra Wood I have 4 books to go to meet my 50 book goal.
 Like · Reply · November 2, 2015 at 7:41 am

Write a comment... 📷 📷

2015 Reading Challenge

COMPLETED 2015
 reading challenge

Congrats! You have read 33 books of a goal of 33!

100%

6 books ahead of schedule

View Challenge

👤 Mary Jenson, Shelley Leverty DeSmith and 2 others
 Top Comment

Write a comment... 📷 📷

Sara Larson Yay Eli! 😊
 Like · Reply · Message · December 1, 2016 at 12:58pm



Home Reading Routines

- Every classroom, same expectation (20 minutes minimum each day)
- Frequent phone calls home
- Students are honest (I think...)
- Book Bags from the LMC
- Book Boutique
- Social Learning
- “Reading is what we do in SCF!”

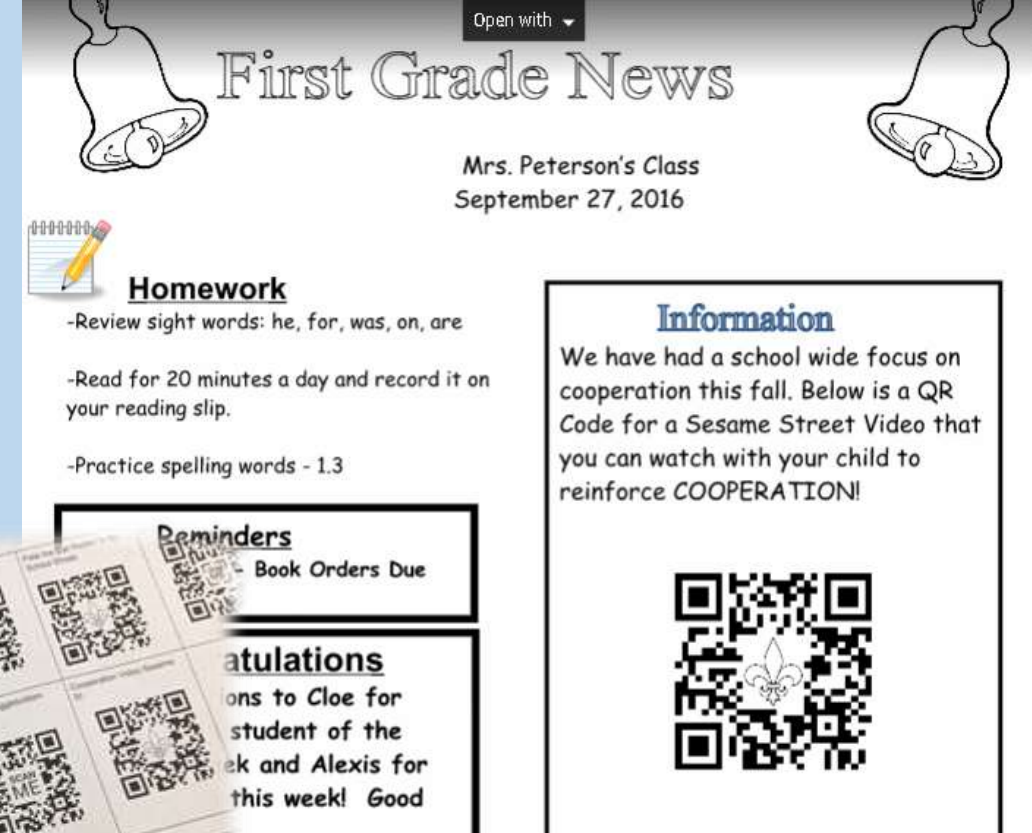
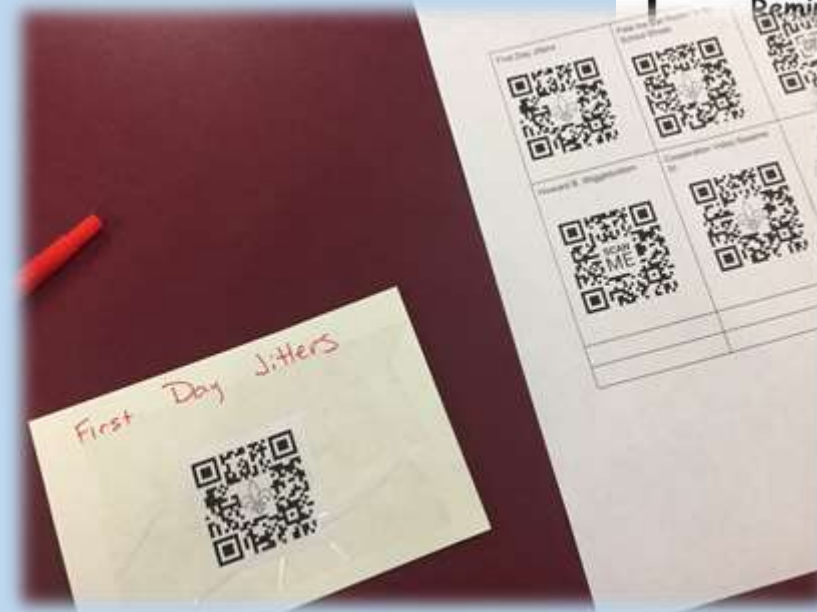


Look Who's Reading!



QR Codes

- QR codes in newsletters
- Need free app on phone or tablet
- <https://www.the-qrcode-generator.com/>
- Link to articles, videos, or information related to content
- Kids engage on the way home
- Parents have insight into school learning



QR Code to take you to my library website...loaded with good stuff! Can you tell I love to share?

Goals & Book Boutique



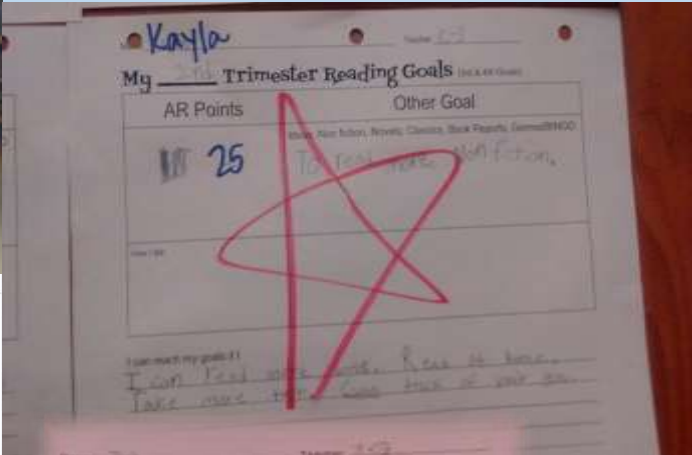
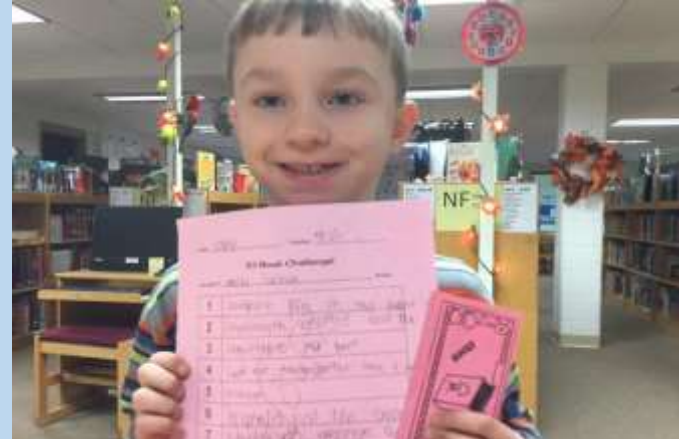
**Turbo-Charge
Reading!
Get books in the
community!**



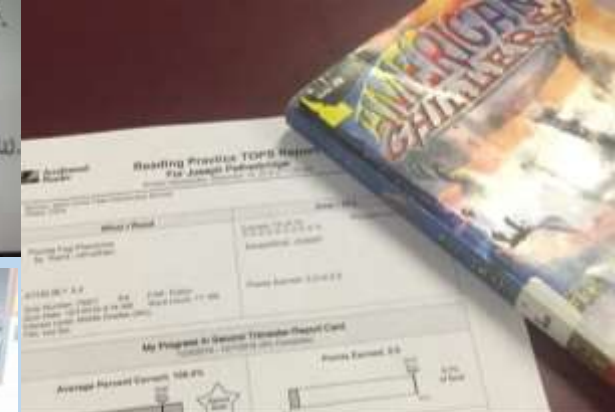
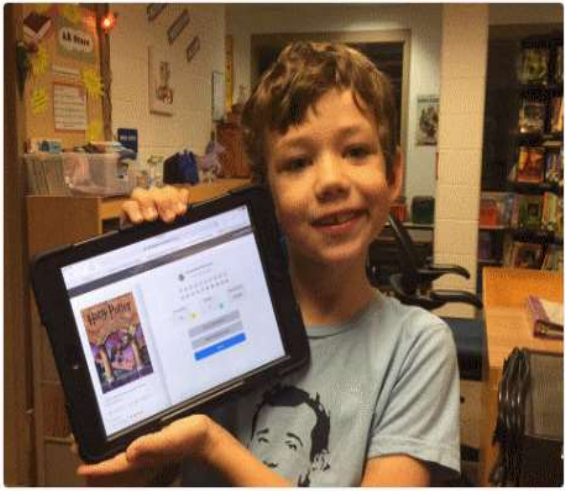
<https://www.firstbook.org/>

<http://www.weteachwelearn.org/2016/06/goal-setting-a-simple-lesson-sequence/>

A Word about AR



Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 9 Sep 2016
Look who passed a quiz on Harry Potter!!!! @scfschools @AccReader
#SaintsPride #readinggoals



AR KILLED MY DOG! And now it's coming for YOU!

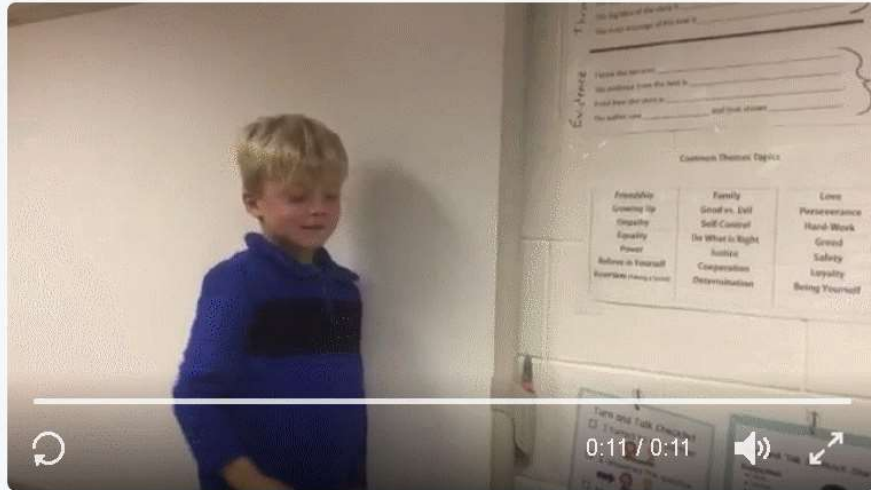
A Defense of Accelerated Reader and a Plea for Less Drama

<http://www.weteachwelearn.org/2014/08/ar-killed-my-dog-and-now-its-coming-for-you-a-defense-of-accelerated-reader-and-a-plea-for-less-drama/>

“Slant” Your Classroom



Author's message in 2nd grade! @scfschools Get ready for these amazing kiddos, @MizGermain



In reply to Dr. Mary Howard
Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 19 Jun 2016
@DrMaryHoward @HeinemannPub We do Summer Reading Challenge. I get texts & FB posts about kids mtg goals all summer



Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 3 Mar 2016
Snuggle up and Read Night at the ES library [youtube.com/watch?v=IsTHap...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsTHap...) #G2Great



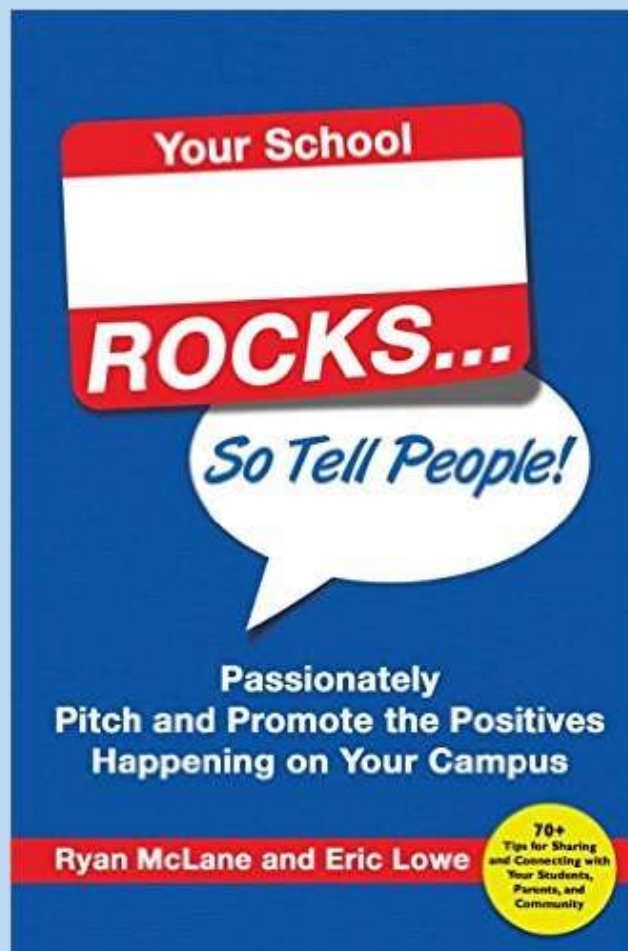
Cuddle up and read

Rita Platt @ritaplatt · 3 Mar 2016
A6: IditaREAD family reading race w/ the Iditarod muhers [youtube.com/watch?edit=vd&...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?edit=vd&...) #G2Great



My Edited Video - YouTube
I created this video with the YouTube Video Editor (<https://www.youtube.com/editor>)
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- Reading Interventions for Middle Grade Students (4-8)
- Reading Workshop Approach in the Middle Grades (4-8)
- Response to Intervention in Reading (K-6)
- Preparing English Language Learners for Success (K-8)

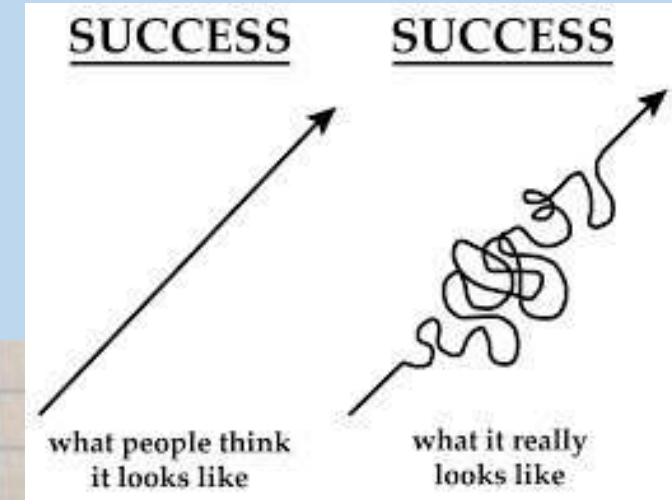
EMAIL RITA FOR DETAILS & DISCOUNT CODE FOR ANY COURSE!

Choose your path to engagement...

- What will you do this year to move ahead?
 - Write one goal or more goals.
 - Tweet or email when you get started!
 - @ritaplatt
 - ritaplatt@hotmail.com

When it is obvious a goal cannot be reached, don't adjust your goal, adjust your action steps.

~ Confucius



Don't wait until you've reached your goal to be proud of yourself. Be proud of every step you take toward reaching that goal.