

Merizo Martyrs' Memorial School

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Dolphin News Splash

Holiday Literacy Festival

December 2016

Volume 1, Issue 5

We have officially kicked off our Holiday Literacy Festival. The intent of the Holiday Literacy Festival is to promote and celebrate literacy (ability to read and write). Listed is information pertaining a few of the upcoming events we have planned for our Holiday Literacy Festival.

SPRIT DAYS

Note: Themes for each day will remain the same for the remainder of the Festival. Incentives will be given to students who participate in the Spirit Days themes.

- Mondays— “What have you read lately?” - Wear something red.
- Tuesdays— “Read my shirt.” - Wear a shirt others can read.
- Wednesdays— “Let’s keep cultural literacy alive!” - Wear an outfit/item from your culture or islandwear.
- Thursdays— “ ‘Orange’ you happy you can read?” - Wear something orange.

Please note: While our spirit days are intended to be fun, we ask our families to ensure that our students dress respectfully. Please be sure that there are no inappropriate logos, pictures, or words on your child’s attire.



DECEMBER PARENT WORKSHOP

This month’s parent workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 6pm at the Umatac Mayor’s Office. As part of our Holiday Literacy Festival, our workshop will include a “make-and-take” craft session. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact Ms. Balajadia at the number listed above.

MMMS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2016

Our Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 23, 2016 at 9am in the school cafeteria. This year’s program will encompass a reader’s theater of Dr. Seuss’s *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Listed below is each grade level’s attire. For questions on attire, please contact your child’s teacher.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Head Start	black leggings; red short-sleeved blouse OR a red dress	blue jeans; white short-sleeved shirt
Kindergarten	pajamas	pajamas
First Grade	blue jeans; red blouse	blue jeans; white shirt
Second Grade	blue jeans; white shirt; Santa hat	blue jeans; white shirt; Santa hat
Third Grade	khaki bottom; white shirt; Santa hat	khaki bottom; white shirt; Santa hat
Fourth Grade	black bottom; white shirt	black bottom; white shirt
Fifth Grade	khaki bottom; white shirt; Christmas accessories	khaki bottom; white shirt; Christmas accessories

HOLIDAY LITERACY FESTIVAL CULMINATING ACTIVITY

Our culminating activity for our Holiday Literacy Festival will be held in the afternoon (after lunch) of Friday, December 23, 2016. The activity will include various activity/game booths for students to enjoy. Although there will free booths/available, others will require a students to pay a fee. Tickets for paid booths will be presold at \$1 per ticket beginning on Monday, December 12th through your child’s teacher. Ticket sales will end at 11am on Friday, December 23rd. If you are interested in assisting with your child’s grade level booth, please contact your child’s teacher. Please contact Ms. Balajadia for any other Holiday Literacy Festival questions at the number listed above or at fmpbalajadia@gdoe.net.

MMMS Food Drive 2016

This year, MMMS students want to give back to our community! We will be having a canned food drive to benefit the Kusinan Kamalen Karidat and Merizo Senior Citizens. Our canned food drive will run from Monday, December 5th to Wednesday, December 21st. Our goal is to collect 500 canned goods, other non-perishable food, and drink items. Donated items can be turned into your child's teacher. This drive serves as a perfect opportunity for all of us to give back to the community and support a worthy cause. Please see the list below for some examples of items that can be donated. Thank you for your support!

Examples of items that can be donated:

- Canned Meats (e.g. SPAM, Potted Meat, Corned Beef)
- Canned Fruits (e.g. peaches, fruit cocktail, pears)
- Drink pouches, water, juice boxes
- Canned vegetables (e.g. corn, peas etc.)
- Other Canned Items (e.g. soup, tuna, chili)
- Individual Serving Items (e.g. crackers, cookies, etc.)

Health & Safety Concern

Due to concerns of potential overheating, we are asking our families to restrain from allowing students to wear heavy sweaters/jackets to school. There have been recent cases at MMMS of students almost fainting/passing out because they were wearing such items. Student health and safety are priority over fashion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Important Dates to Remember This Month

- Thursday, December 8th—Holiday: Our Lady of Camarin Day
- Wednesday, December 14th—December Parent Workshop; 6pm at the Umatac Mayor's Office
- Friday, December 23rd—Christmas Program & Holiday Literacy Festival
- December 26th—Christmas Break Begins



Birthday wishes to our Dolphins born in November!

December 2016

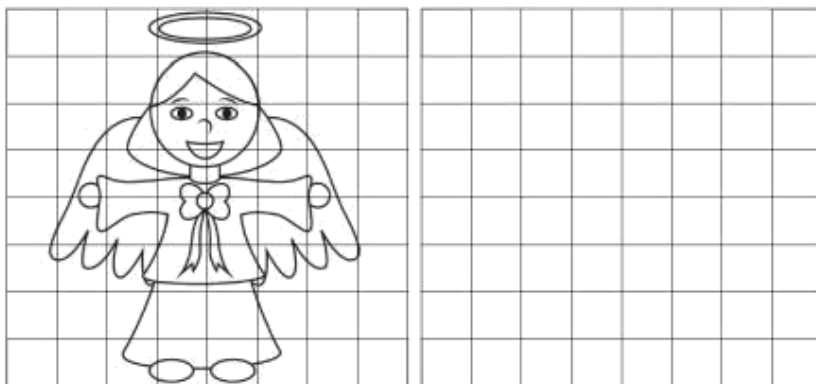
- Coen Nauta—12/1
- Ayden Baker—12/3
- Aidin Camacho—12/6
- Jaydon Sanchez—12/8
- Cayvehn Quinlan—12/14
- Leyla Acfalle—12/14
- Elijah Sanchez—12/14
- William John Santos—12/14
- Deannrah Babauta—12/27
- Bernard Muna—12/28

Faculty/Staff:

- Mrs. Lilibeth Jaque—12/13
- Ms. Gina Quintanilla—12/21

Santa Word Search

Copy the Angel



Copy the picture using the grid lines as a guide. You might find it easier to copy one square at a time. Count the squares carefully!

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



X U R S C T X B O J I W W I Y
 S O W X H O Q T O C N F F I Q
 L W K T I Y M T Q O A S F D Q
 R F F B M S E Q A I U C Y Z B
 V E K Y N S R S R H S O H L K
 K Y I V E X L I U L G Q Q C C
 T H C N Y U E E L U G I S K I
 M D C E D S K E D X H E E Z N
 J O L L Y E B U G C V E O L T
 F U O J D H E H P L O D U R S
 Z E U C G T D R E N K O W X Q
 W F I I G Q J Z G E H W C M D
 D X E L O Y P J H I W K X Z Y
 N L N O R T H P O L E O S L Z
 S T Y R V U D M Q A W K U Z A

- Chimney
- Elves
- Fairies
- Jolly
- North Pole
- Reindeer
- Rudolph
- Sled
- Sleigh
- Sleigh Bells
- St. Nick
- Toys



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

December 2016

Merizo Martyrs Memorial School



SHORT NOTES

Weather emergency kit

Let your youngster help you prepare for winter emergencies. Brainstorm what you might need if the power goes out or if you're stuck inside during a snowstorm. *Examples:* Flashlights, batteries, bottled water, canned goods, first aid kit. Together, put the items in a box and find a safe place to keep it.

Thinking games

Stretch your child's thinking skills by playing Fortunately, Unfortunately. One person states a good event ("Fortunately, all the stoplights have been green"). The next player says a silly, but related, "bad" event ("Unfortunately, the law changed, and green means Stop"). Continue until you get stuck—then start over.

Your child's digital footprint

It's tempting to post cute pictures of your youngster or tell funny parenting stories on social media—but first consider his feelings. And since his online trail will stick with him forever, think about how he'll feel when he's older. Get his permission before posting, or let him decide who will be able to see it (say, only relatives).

Worth quoting

"Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit." Aristotle

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the girl wear one mitten and one boot?

A: Because she heard there was a 50 percent chance of snow.



Connect reading and writing

Reading will make your child a better writer—and vice versa. That's good news, because both will help her do well in every subject. Here are ways she can explore the link between reading and writing.

Try genres

Introduce your youngster to a wide variety of books, from fairy tales and science fiction to graphic novels and biographies. Reading different genres will give her more options to think about—suggest that she branch out and try writing in one of those new genres.

Collect "gems"

Have your child keep a notebook of her favorite parts of stories. She could choose interesting words or lines. She'll get in the habit of paying close attention

to the language that writers use, which will give her ideas for her own writing.

Review books

Your youngster could be a budding book critic and write reviews about what she reads. She'll practice opinion writing and deepen her reading comprehension as she summarizes the plot. Encourage her to include details and quotes from the book to back up her opinions. ("The main character showed empathy when he said, 'I know what it's like to be the new kid in school.'")♥

Volunteer success

Whether you're volunteering in your youngster's school or from home, consider these tips.

Contact the teacher. Let him know you'd like to help, tell him when you're available, and find out what he needs.

Follow the rules. Ask questions if you're not sure what's expected. For instance, are home-baked goods acceptable, or do treats have to be store-bought and sealed, with ingredients listed? Are younger siblings allowed to come along? What are the guidelines for keeping student information confidential?

Enjoy the experience! Volunteering is rewarding for parents, teachers, and students. Know that you're making a difference, and talk to your child about how you're helping out.♥



A dependable child

Kyle's parents count on him to walk his little sister home from school. And Jamal's parents know he'll remember to set the table without being asked. These parents are raising dependable youngsters—and you can, too, with these suggestions:

- Talk to your child about who depends on you. You could say, "My company relies on me to be on time, so I have to leave for work now." Your youngster will see that being dependable is a part of life.



- When you need your child to do something, let him know you're counting on him. He'll be likely to meet your expectations if you say something like "I know I can depend on you to feed the dog."

- Show your youngster how good it feels to follow through when someone is relying on him. You might have him sign up to

work with a student who is learning English or who needs extra help with math. Use encouraging comments such as, "I know Julian looks forward to seeing you every day," or "I bet David is learning a lot from you."♥

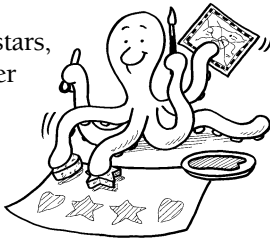
ACTIVITY CORNER



DIY wrapping paper

Let your child design homemade wrapping paper—and show thoughtfulness by personalizing each person's package. Try these ideas.

Sponge stamps. Help your youngster cut apart large brown paper bags. Then, she could cut sponges into stars, hearts, or other shapes, and dip them into paint. Suggest that she stamp them onto the paper in a pattern (heart, star, star, heart, star, star).

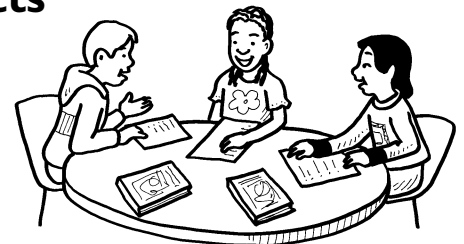


"Mapping" paper. Have an old atlas? Your child might cut out maps and tape them together to make sheets of wrapping paper. If she's sending a gift to a relative in another state or country, she could select a map of that place.

Artwork. Who wouldn't love to receive your youngster's original artwork? Ask her to wrap a few gifts in her own paintings or sketches.♥

Navigating group projects

Learning to work on assignments as a group is an important part of school. Share this advice for helping your youngster succeed with projects and presentations.



Get input

Everyone in the group should give input. Your child might get quieter members to express their opinions by asking, "Which format do you like for our presentation?"

List duties

At the first meeting, one person can write and distribute a list of responsibilities, including due dates for each task. That way, everyone will remember what they're supposed to do.

Update each other

During follow-up meetings, group members should give updates on their progress and brainstorm solutions to any problems. If anyone is falling behind, other members could offer support or ideas.♥

Q & A Be your own "CEO"

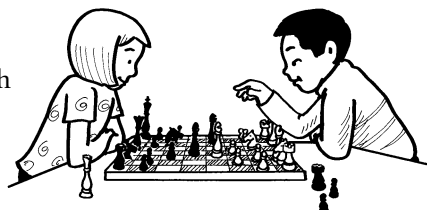
Q: I've been hearing a lot lately about executive function skills. What are they, and should I be helping my son work on them?

A: These skills let your child manage himself, like an executive overseeing the operations of a company or an air-traffic controller directing flights for landing. A student with good executive function skills is able to juggle tasks, plan

ahead, stay organized, and make decisions about his actions.

You could help your son sharpen these skills with strategy games. For example, chess is ideal because players must plan several moves in advance and consider multiple possibilities. Or try 20

Questions, since players have to keep in mind answers to all previous questions as they decide what to ask next.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

DECEMBER 2016

READING Book talk

Let your youngster share a favorite book by giving a “book talk” with details about the story’s key elements.

Ingredients: book, index cards, pencil, poster board, crayons or markers



After reading the book, your child can identify the main points she wants to make. What is the plot? What’s interesting about the characters? How did they change as the story progressed? She will have to think carefully about the book to pull out important details.

Your youngster could write her ideas on index cards and make a poster advertising her book to use during her talk. Now sit back and enjoy her presentation!



MATH Prime time

Play this card game to help your child identify prime numbers.

Ingredients: deck of cards (face cards removed, ace = 1), paper, pencil

Deal six cards to each player, and stack the rest. The object is to find as many prime numbers as possible. *Note:* Primes are numbers that can be divided evenly only by 1 or themselves.

Each round, players draw a card and lay down any primes in their hands. (They can use scratch paper to do the division and check.) One point is earned for each card used. Combine a 5 (prime) and a 6 (composite number) to make the prime number 11, and earn 2 points. The first person to get 50 points wins.



Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the “recipe.”

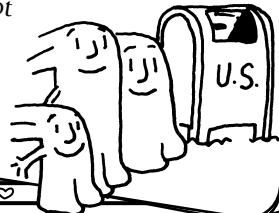
PHONICS

Practice phonics with a scavenger hunt. On small pieces of paper, write letter combinations (tr, fl, ch, qu), and put them in a bowl. Let your child pick one and say it aloud. Next, challenge her to find an object with that combination (a quilt for qu). Take turns, or let her choose again.



SAFETY

Together, make a family fire-escape plan. Ask your youngster to sketch your home’s floor plan on paper, labeling each room. He should draw an X over ways to escape (doors, windows). Then, help him draw a line showing the way from every exit to a safe meeting spot outside, like a mailbox down the block.



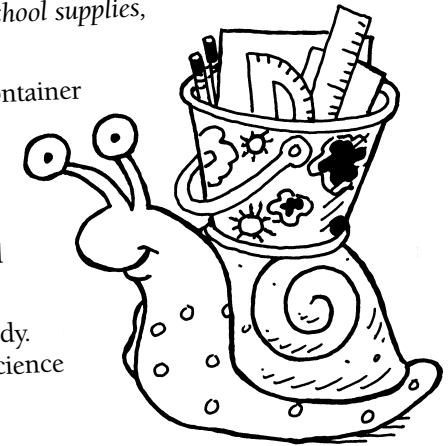
STUDY SKILLS Brainy bucket

Your youngster can be study-ready by putting together a portable study kit.

Ingredients: bucket or other container, school supplies, art supplies

Suggest that your child decorate the container using paints, markers, crayons, or stickers. Then, he can stock it with supplies like pencils with erasers, paper, a highlighter, a ruler, crayons, markers, a protractor, a calculator, and flash cards.

Have him add a list of fun ways to study. *Examples:* Bounce a ball to spell out science words, one bounce per letter. Draw pictures to solve math problems.



Recipes for Success

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Character Corner

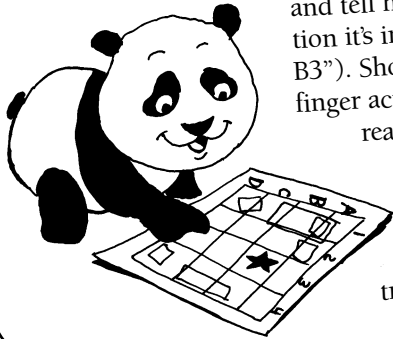
MAP SKILLS Find the object

A treasure hunt makes working with map coordinates an adventure.

Ingredients: paper, crayons, pencil, ruler

Help your youngster draw a map of his bedroom showing his bed, desk, chair, and other items. Using a pencil and a ruler, he can divide the map into four rows and four columns. Have him label the rows A, B, C, and D along the left side, and the columns 1, 2, 3, and 4 across the top.

Now hide an object somewhere in his room. Look at his map, and tell him which coordinate location it's in ("The stuffed panda is in B3"). Show him how to slide his finger across the "B" row until he reaches the "3" column—then he looks in the corresponding spot in his room for the item. When he finds it, he can hide a treasure for you.



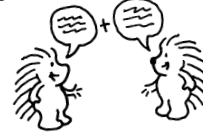
FITNESS

Here's a playful way for your youngster to practice coordination and balance. Take turns asking each other to do two activities at once, such as stand on one leg while patting your head or rub your stomach while skipping. For an added challenge, try three motions.



STORYTELLING

Ask your child to think of two characters and begin to tell a story about them. The next person adds to it, then your youngster (or someone else) continues. Each person takes a few turns before your child ends the story. *Idea:* Use a tape recorder to capture the entire tale.



INITIATIVE

Have your youngster write "Job well done" on a piece of paper. Every time she takes care of something (like putting away her clean clothes) without being asked or reminded, she crosses out a letter. How quickly can she cross them all out?



PATIENCE



Doing activities that require patience will help your child learn to wait. Together, plant seeds in a flower pot, water them, and place the pot near a sunny window. Suggest that he make tally marks on a sheet of paper to track how many days it takes for the seeds to sprout.

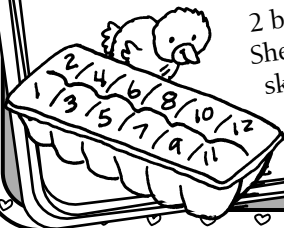
COURAGE

In a notebook, your youngster can draw pictures of brave people, perhaps an uncle who's a firefighter. When she needs courage (say, to try out for a sport or present an oral report), she can leaf through her notebook for inspiration.



COUNTING

Turn an empty egg carton into a math activity. Have your child label each egg cup, 1-12, and fill each spot with a matching number of "eggs" (beads, pebbles). The "1" cup gets 1 bead, the "2" cup 2 beads, and so on. She'll practice the skill of one-to-one correspondence.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

IMAGINATION

Let your child gather small household objects and use them to put on a show for you. He might tape together a wooden spoon, a roll of masking tape, and napkin rings to make a magical giraffe that discovers a tree with special powers.

