

Dear Las Lomitas Families,

Last week's Dance Festival was wonderful! Hats off to the Linda McGhee, Carol Hedges and Kaitlyn Chernikov for coordinating and teaching all the dances, including the teachers' "Happy Dance". It was one to remember!

As we head toward summer, I get a lot of questions about supporting learning during the vacation. The following is an excerpt from an article by Mary Mastain, former member of the International Reading Associations' Parents and Reading Committee. I hope you will reflect on her "checklist" and consider how you may be able to incorporate opportunities for learning at home.

A Parent's Checklist

How many of these things do you do to encourage your child to listen, speak, write and read?

1. I take time to talk with my child every day.
2. I take time to listen to my child and answer his or her countless questions.
3. I sing and/or recite rhymes to my child.
4. I read something (newspaper, magazine, book) every day, showing my child that reading is important.
5. My child and I have library cards (the best of all credit cards).
6. I take my child to the library regularly. We both select books to read by ourselves and aloud together at home.
7. Together we look at books and magazines, each of us talking about what we see and read.
8. I ask my child to tell me a story or to describe something he or she has done or seen.
9. I often write down what my child tells me and read back the "story" exactly as it was dictated to me.
10. My child has his or her own bookshelf (or a box or a drawer) to hold books.
11. I take time to read aloud to my child each day as often as my child will listen to me, or asks me to read to him or her, and I encourage all members of my family to do the same.
12. My child watches carefully selected television programs, and I limit screen time so there is *at least equal* time for reading.
13. I praise my child's efforts and accomplishments so that he or she will have self-confidence and zest for new learning experiences.

I look forward to seeing you all at Open House on Thursday and your grandparents here at school on Friday!

Until next time,

Sue Sartor

Principal