

LITERACY TIPS - May/June

Hello Parents and Guardians! This will be my last segment of literacy tips for this school year and for me. I am retiring at the end of this school year and Mrs. Graff will be taking over as Clear Vista's literacy teacher. I have enjoyed this role very much and I hope that I have made an impact on the growth of your child's reading and math skills.

I get asked all the time about what can be done, both at school and at home, to improve student's success with the outcomes in the curriculum. To answer that, I want to tell you a story.

My daughter has started grad studies in educational policy. One of her first courses was a research - project answering the question: "What factors facilitate students' achievement of a high school diploma?". Her two findings from all 3 people that she interviewed were the following:

1. Parental support - This was the number one factor from interviewees that had just graduated all the way up to grandparents. Everyone needs that push to help them through some tough patches. They need to understand that achieving their goals is hard work and non-negotiable. That can be hard parenting at times but, as this research project demonstrates, is fundamentally important.
2. The second most important factor was having a safe and caring school where children are supported, encouraged, and respected. They need to develop responsibility around their own learning and take risks. Schools strive to provide this nurturing environment and are constantly changing and revamping what is done with the needs of the student as the first and most important factor.
3. The third factor was intrinsic motivation. Some children just have that drive but many others need to develop it through the desire to reach a goal. This factor, though important, was not as crucial as your own parental role.

I thought that asking why children succeed rather than why they do not was an important way of us flipping the narrative. We understand why children do not succeed but have we ever thought about why they do despite some obstacles that make achieving goals more challenging?. Your children will struggle to succeed without it. Parents, my point is, that your role is tremendously important. And think of the power of both parents and schools working together to facilitate this?

As I leave CV, I am proud of the many successes of my students. I'm going to miss them all very much. I wish them all continued success.

Miss Holliday