



STRIDE Pride  
Newsletter

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### **STRIDE Academy Families: Middle School Project**

We are happy to bring you news concerning the middle school project. We apologize for the lack of communication; however, we just have not seen much movement in the project in the last two months.

The journey has been long, but we are finally ready to begin construction of the middle school. One last meeting stands between now and breaking ground. We meet on January 27th to finalize the plat. After the meeting on the 27th, we will be less than a week from breaking ground.

At our board meeting on January 19th, AL Keller of GCI construction, presented a list of answers to questions we posed to him about the project. This letter that includes the questions and the answers has been posted to our website at [www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org), visit the site and read the letter from GCI. I think you will find the answers very positive and exciting. From this point on we are going to make a concerted effort to keep you up to date on the progress of the project. The items we are working on next include: Will there be a third kindergarten section? and What is the timeline? We will have more answers at the conclusion of next week. The entire community will have an opportunity to know about the project as we have plans for announcing it on the various media outlets. "To Live, To Love, To Learn, To Leave a Legacy" looks like the legacy continues!! Mr. Beutel

### **Quick Bits**

**Purple Pride Day:** Let's celebrate our Vikings and come dressed in purple on Friday, January 22nd. Students can wear jeans. If students are not participating in Purple Pride Day they will wear the normal uniform of polo and khakis. We Vikings fans will look the other way if you would like to represent another football team. Go Vikes!!!

**We Have Only Just Begun** (band, choir and piano performance): The first ever performance will be Jan. 26 at 6pm at the Westwood Community Church. The event will include the STRIDE choir, the 4th-6th grade band and the K-6th grade piano students.

**PRE-K nights:** A reminder to parents who have kindergartners coming to STRIDE next school year, Pre-K nights begins on January 28th.

**MIDDLE School Letter:** You can view the updated Middle School letter on our website. [www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org)

## Reading at Home

Dear Parents,

A recent [commentary printed in the Teachers Leadership Network Forum](#), reinforced the importance of students reading at home. The report plainly states that reading at home is one of the most important indicators of educational success, beyond working hard. Students who read the most perform better in school. They are the best readers, of course, but they are also the best writers, spellers, possess the best vocabulary, and perform better in content-heavy areas like science and social studies. Clearly, reading is important, and the students who read the most possess the highest academic potential (Miller, 2010).

Teachers have tried many techniques to motivate or encourage students to read more at home. Both of my boys have brought home the reading log sheet or the famous "Book It" (get a free pizza for reading 400 minutes). Here are some simple ideas in which promote the "love" of reading:

1. Parents should carve out reading time for their children each day. This time should be allotted for reading only. In our house, the entire family stops and reads for 30 minutes. My wife often enjoys reading chapter books with our children. Julie will read a few pages and then Jordan will read the next few pages. This technique is a great bonding experience, helps your children read more difficult text without fatigue and you can ask your children questions throughout the reading.

2. Find books that interest your child. Even if the reading material seems a little too easy, let your child just relax and have fun reading books that interest them.

3. Encourage, encourage, encourage your children to read. Ask them what their favorite book is or the last book they read. Discuss details of the book with your child.

Email me some suggestions that you use to encourage reading at home. That I can pass on to parents.

Jason Ulbrich, Education Director

## NEWS HAPPENING IN 3RD GRADE!!

The third grade is starting its second community service project this month. It is our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual penny drive for leukemia. The fundraiser, Pennies for Patients is a whole school project where students from K-6<sup>th</sup> grade donate change/money as a way of raising awareness and helping patients in our 5-state area. Last year we raised around \$865.00 to help fight leukemia and lymphoma. The third grade students take active part in this fundraiser, as they teach other students at STRIDE about this illness and tell of facts to help us understand and know more about this. In the next few weeks, there will be a flyer in your child's Thursday folder explaining more and how you can help. There will be ways that you, as parents, can also help with this fundraiser. Please encourage your child to let you know what he/she is learning with these facts and information when they hear it. Let's be proactive and start planning on saving the coins to help with the cure for leukemia.

