



HAPPENINGS @ HJI

A MONTHLY LITERACY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 1



WHAT'S INSIDE

What's happening next for Resource Groups

What students can do to improve productivity

Suggested reads for each grade

RESOURCE GROUP REMINDERS

September

- [September 7, 6:00 p.m.](#) : Parent Resource Group: Network Night + Back-To-School Tips
- [September 8, 6:00 p.m.](#) : Educator Online Resource Group: *Make It Stick* and related resources
- [September 16, 6:00 p.m.](#) : Student Online Resource Group : Back-to-School Tips + Guided Craft Activity

October

- [October 5, 6:00 p.m.](#) : Parent Resource Group: Neuhaus Lesson + Q & A Panel
- [October 6, 6:00 p.m.](#) : Educator Online Resource Group : *Handwriting Brain-Body Disconnect* Takeaways + Dysgraphia Tips
- [October 7, 6:00 p.m.](#) : Student online Resource Group: Dysgraphia Skills





BOOSTING STUDENT PRODUCTIVITY AT HOME: 3 PERSPECTIVES

For Students:

- **Create an after-school routine:** Come home from school with a plan for your evening: one that accounts for fun, hobbies, and homework! Taking breaks and making sure your time is well-managed makes a huge difference when it comes time for homework.
- **Plan for large projects in advance:** Create schedules for larger assignments over many days, so there's no one night where you are stressed and rushing!
- **Think carefully about your workspace:** Choose a place that is quiet and away from distractions (like TVs, pets, and siblings, if possible!)
- **Finish each task before starting another:** Completely finishing each component of your homework helps ensure you didn't miss anything!
- **Take breaks:** Brains need them, too! Be sure to fuel your mind with healthy snacks, and give your eyes frequent screen breaks if working on a laptop.

For Parents:

- **Know your child's teachers:** Communicate early and often with questions and concerns.
- **Help your student make a plan:** Develop after-school routines that facilitate independent learning.
- **Establish a study/work area:** Having a set, quiet place to work and focus helps students stay engaged.
- **Be encouraging:** Let your student know that you are there to support them, but that they are responsible for their learning!

For Teachers:

- **Ensure students complete their homework calendar:** Not just for next-day assignments, but also long-term projects!
- **Teach study skills:** Encourage students to utilize strategies from class activities at home: study groups, flashcards, and self-testing.
- **Communicate with parents and students:** Make sure that parents and students alike are familiar with deadlines!



SUGGESTED READING

LEARNING ALLY AND LOCAL LIBRARY FINDS YOUNG READERS WILL LOVE!

When instructing young students with learning differences, people most often ask us: what is one thing I can do outside the classroom to help?

While the answer seems too simple to be true, it is: just 20 minutes of reading each day helps foster vocabulary, comprehension, and visual imagery, while also helping children gain essential social and emotional skills.

The benefits extend to both student sight-reading experiences, as well as listening to books read aloud. Below are a few of our favorites for each grade level!

(Note: Titles indicated for older students often cover heavier themes, such as mental health and social concerns.)

Good Reads by Grade Level:

Kindergarten: [Enemy Pie](#) by Derek Munson
A fun and engaging read for young learners about the power of perspective.

1: [Each Kindness](#) by Jacqueline Woodson
For students learning about the impact of their actions, this book is sure to resonate with young readers.

2: [We're All Wonders](#) by RJ Palacio
A creative reimagining of [Wonder](#) for a younger audience.

3: [Kiyoshi's Walk](#) by Mark Karlins
See, hear, touch, taste, smell...and imagine poetry all around you. -- Kirkus Reviews

4: [Fish in a Tree](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
"Readers will . . . cheer for this likable girl." —The Horn Book

5: [Mustaches for Maddie](#) by Chad Morris and Shelly Brown
"This poignant and uplifting novel is a good read-alike for fans of R.J.Palacio's [Wonder](#)." --School Library Journal

6: [Finding Perfect](#) by Elly Swartz
"A clear, moving portrayal of obsessive-compulsive disorder through the authentic voice of middle schooler Molly Nathans."—Publishers Weekly

7: [Tangerine](#) by Edward Bloor
"A richly imagined read about an underdog coming into his own."—Bulletin

8: [A Mango-Shaped Space](#) by Wendy Mass
"An original, brightly written tale."—Washington Post

9: [A Wrinkle in Time](#) by Madeleine L'Engle
"A coming of age fantasy story that sympathizes with typical teen girl awkwardness and insecurity, highlighting courage, resourcefulness and the importance of family ties as key to overcoming them." —Carol Platt Liebau, author, in the New York Post

10 [The Science of Breakable Things](#) by Tae Keller
"Beautifully crafted metaphors, a theme of mending old friendships and creating new ones, and an empowering teacher to a variety of readers. . . . A winning story full of heart and action." —Booklist

11: [Turtle Boy](#) by M. Evan Wolkenstein
"A strong debut novel about grief, loss, and coming out of one's shell." —School Library Journal

12: [The House on Mango Street](#) by Sandra Cisneros
"Afortunado! Lucky! Lucky the generation who grew up with [Esperanza](#) and [The House on Mango Street](#). And lucky future readers. This funny, beautiful book will always be with us." —Maxine Hong Kingston