WAYS TO ADD READING TO YOUR WINTER BREAK PLANS:

1. Visit your local library with your family. In addition to books, find out about all the programming your library has to offer. You'd be surprise that many offer classes, workshops, movie nights, reading groups, and more for all ages on a vast variety of topics.

2. Take time to find a new topic to read about during your break. Here is a great resource to find new booklists based on grade and topics of interest: https://bit.ly/3pFLVA1

3. Go on a "cooking" reading adventure! These reading adventures encourage hands-on fun and learning centered around cooking-themed fiction and nonfiction books. https://on.natgeo.com/3l9rNs0

4. Donate books. Consider donating your gently used books to a local charity. Save the environment by also recycling damaged books rather than tossing them in the garbage.

5. Write. Writing is a major part of literacy. Consider writing notes of appreciation, thanks, or love to the special people in your life. Write your own story. Then share read it aloud to someone.

6. Day trips, vacations and special outings create special memories and great learning opportunities for families. Whether you’re going to the zoo, the museum, or a state park, below are a few “stops” to make before your visit.

7. Don’t forget nonfiction! Explore different books about history, science, math, geography, engineering, etc. to find out more about the world around you.

Fun Literacy Days in December:

- Dec. 15th—Bill of Rights Day
- Dec. 21st—Crossword Puzzle Day
- Dec. 26th—Thank You Note Day

Free Reading Resources

WHAT CAN WE DO AT HOME?

Family support boosts student’s learning. Try these fun games and activities to reinforce and build your growing reader’s literacy skills from home.

PLAY BOARD GAMES WITH SPELLING OR READING COMPONENTS

Playing board games as a family can help you enjoy some fun together over the holidays while working on reading skills in the process. Some examples of games that have a reading, spelling, or storytelling components are Tall Tales, Scrabble, Boggle, Sequence Letters, and Scattergories. These games are sure to help your child discover that learning can be fun and are perfect ways to make memories during winter break!

INTRODUCE JOURNALING

Consider introducing your child to a new literacy-centric hobby like journaling. With the end of the calendar year upon us, the close of the fall semester, and the exciting holiday season to enjoy, this time of year brings plenty of opportunities for reflection and appreciation. Here are a few topic ideas to get the pen or pencil flowing:

1. What is your favorite thing about the winter/holiday season?
2. What traditions does your family have for the winter/holidays, and which is your favorite? Will you continue them when you’re older?
3. What did you learn so far this year at school?
4. What’s your favorite holiday/winter book or movie? What about your favorite book you read this year? And what made it so good?
5. If you could give a gift to the world, what would it be? Why?

RESOURCES:

Parents and MAP Growth – 7 Things to Know

“MAP Growth tracks student growth over time – wherever they are starting from and regardless of the grade they are in. For instance, if a third grader is actually reading like a fifth grader, MAP Growth will be able to identify that. Or, if a fifth grader is doing math like a third grader, MAP Growth will identify that, too. Both things are incredibly important for teachers to know so that they can plan instruction efficiently.”


Family Toolkit—FAQs about MAP Testing

https://bit.ly/32zRQs3