



# Brainy BUNCH NEWS



Volume 2

October 16, 2008

## Dates to Remember...

October 17  
The Brainy Bunch will be singing "The Dendrite Song" at the K-2 Friday morning assembly.

October 29  
Author Phil Bildner visits Gullett

October 31 Pumpkin Day

November 1 Gullett Carnival

November 10 No School

November 11 9:00  
Veteran's Day Assembly

November 14  
Field Trip – Apple Store @ The Domain

## Pumpkin Day!

The second grade tradition continues... Pumpkin Day is coming on October 31! All second graders are encouraged to bring a pumpkin decorated like a book character to school on Wednesday, October 29. You may want to take some time now to discuss with your child what book character they are interested in doing. (TV, cartoon, and scary characters will not be allowed.) Expect a planning sheet with more details in your child's red take home folder soon.

## Book Orders

A big thank you to all who ordered books last month! Our classroom library has many new books since purchased with the points Scholastic gives for every parent order. The order sent home earlier in the week is due on Monday, October 20. You may order online at <http://pcool.scholastic.com/parentordering/login.jsp> Our class user name is thebrainybunch and the password is geckos. Lucky is the only order form sent home, but additional selections are available with online ordering.

## Star Students

Every full week of school someone in The Brainy Bunch gets their time to shine! On Monday they share a poster all about them. (It will be sent home a week or so early in order to give the student time to fill it in and color it.) Later in the week they recite a favorite poem, share a current event that interests them, tell a joke and tell us about one of their favorite books.

Upcoming Star Students:

October 27 – 31	Henry
November 3 – 7	Amanda
November 17 – 21	Colin

## Have you heard about...

This is a partial list of all the things that have been keeping The Brainy Bunch busy. (books we've read, games or activities, topics we've studied, etc.) Please ask your child about them if you haven't already heard about them!

monarch, queen, and gulf fritillaries  
 chrysalis  
 parachutes  
 pinwheels  
 weather observations  
 calendar picture patterns  
 pocket day  
 doubles  
 story problems  
 fact families  
 bean toss  
 learning.com  
*Time For Kids*  
*Dear Mr. Henshaw*  
*The Secret School*  
*The School Mouse*  
*Marvin and The Mean Words*  
 book baskets  
 Mark Buehner  
 regular, irregular, and rule words  
 weekend news

Be sure to read "Talking About Books at Home" on the next page!



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## Talking About Books At Home

by Linda Hoyt from *Revisit, Reflect, Retell*

One of the best things you can do to assist your children with reading is to engage them in talking about the books they read. Talking stimulates language development and helps children improve their comprehension.

As you get ready to share a book with your child, you might ask your child to talk about the cover, the title, and a few of the pictures in the book. This "before-reading" conversation will help your child to build the expectation that stories make sense. This is also a good time to help your child connect personal experiences to the reading. If there is a picture showing a picnic, for example, this would be a perfect time to talk with your child about a picnic you enjoyed together.

You can also invite your child into conversation during the reading by stopping now and then to ask, "What might happen next?"

As you know, children love to share their opinions. After reading, you might get your child started with questions such as:

\*What did you notice? \*What did you like? \*How did it make you feel? \*Did this remind you of any experiences you have had? \*What parts of the story were your favorites?

Just choose one or two questions so that it feels like a conversation instead of a test. Happy Reading!