

Parents and Families Newsletter

Fall 2023

All content will be trans-adapted for a Spanish version of the newsletter.

Other languages are available through the S'more newsletter.

Dear Parents and Families,

As we enter the fall season, we are here to share ideas on how to support your child through the months leading up to the winter break. October, November, and December are filled with holidays which can be viewed as opportunities to spend more learning time at home. In this issue, we will share some holiday activities that will support your child's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. From Kindergarten to 12th grade, these are skills that can be supported at home with little preparation.

Kids' Zone



At Home Learning



Career Preparation



Don't forget to fill out a [quick survey](#) to share any information or suggestions you might have for the next newsletter. We value your input!

Announcements



The Association for Migrant Education is hosting their annual statewide conference on November 15-17, 2023 in McAllen, Texas. Parents, families, students, and educators will learn about important topics related to migrant families and hear from inspiring keynote speakers. Visit the [AMET website](#) for more information!

Resource Center

At-Home Learning Sites For Students

The following educational websites are free resources schools have shared that will help your child improve their English language skills.



Kids' Zone

Target Skills: Vocabulary and Spelling

Recommended Grade Levels: K-3

Complete word searches to learn new words and spelling.

The easiest way to use this resource is to:

1. Open [Kid's Zone](#) and begin searching for the words on the list.
2. Click on the first letter of the word you are searching for and drag to the end.

This is a simple learning game that can be played at any time or place on your phone or computer.



[New American History](#)

Target Skills: Reading, History

Recommended Grade Levels: 4-12

Learn about American history by selecting articles at your grade level.

The best way to use this resource is to select the grade level your child is reading in and browse the articles that are listed. Allow your child to read an article that interests them and tell you what they learn.

1. Open [New American History](#) and browse by Grade level or topic.
2. Read an article that interests you.
3. Share three important facts you learned about the topic.



[Google Translate](#)

Target: Translate all websites

Recommended Grade Levels: All

Google Translate can be added to your Google web browser to translate any page.

Add this extension to your Google web browser to translate any page.

1. Open Google Extensions and search for [Google Translate](#).
2. Click "Add to Chrome."
3. Open any web site and click on the Google Translate icon. If it does not appear on the menu bar,

click the puzzle piece  to locate and open it.

4. Click "Translate this Page." Then select the language you want to translate it to on the upper left of your screen.
5. Copy and paste the website URL in the box, and the page will be translated.

This extension can be used with any of the resources we share with you.

Don't forget to visit txel.org/SupportingChild for more interactive educational websites.

At-Home Activities

Holidays offer a wide range of fun learning activities for you and your child. Below is one activity for each of the upcoming holidays.

Pumpkin Art



This fun, orange fruit used to greet goblins and create tasty holiday pies can be used to help your child understand and develop characters. First, have your child decide what he would like the pumpkin to be: a superhero, a cartoon, a family member, or a character from a story. Then, draw, paint or color the pumpkin to reflect the character selected. Once the creation is complete, have your child describe the character's personality traits to you orally or in writing.

Giving Thanks

The November Thanksgiving break can be a time for your child to show appreciation for others by writing a Thank You card for you, a family member, or friend. A plain sheet of paper is all that is needed. Fold the paper in half and have your child design the front as they wish. Inside, have your child write a thank you note to the person they are thankful for. Be sure they include the name and three reasons that they are thankful for the person chosen.



Play a Game!



Basic map skills and directions are important for kids to know. During free time at home, have your child draw a map of your home marking all the rooms and furniture. When complete, have them hide a gift or item in one of the rooms and mark it on the map for you or a sibling to find. Have them describe the directions to arrive at the item using the words "above, below, left, and right." This can be a game that can be played regularly!

College and Career Prep

Preparing for college begins as early as elementary with learning about different kinds of jobs. In middle school, students begin having conversations about different kinds of classes available that will help them prepare for different careers. The article entitled "[The Importance of Career Prep: How to Plan for your Dream Job](#)," talks about just that. Career prep, the article explains, begins as early as high school. It will be helpful for your child to have an idea of what their interests are before entering high school. This will increase their chances of taking the right classes before they graduate high school.



The article says that the best way to prepare for today's job market is to find a few career paths that interest you, learn about various career options, and talk to a counselor. While students continue to learn academics, the article also emphasizes the importance of soft skills such as oral communication, teamwork, and critical thinking will improve a student's success in both college and career.

Self Care Tips

One of the best ways to relieve stress is to take time for yourself each day. The first idea in the article, "[Why Self-Care?](#)" focused on putting yourself first. As parents, we need to give ourselves permission to prioritize self care because it will benefit the entire family in the long run. A stress-free parent can provide patience and energy to meet your family's needs.



Self care doesn't need to take a lot of time either. Start by giving yourself 10 minutes each day to sit down and take a breather. Maybe have a cup of tea or coffee. This small step can go a long way in the midst of the day's many tasks.

Final Thoughts

Fall

Moving through the fall semester and the weather changes allows for more time at home. Take time to read and talk with your child about what they're learning at school and what things interest them for their future. Share your experiences and help your child consider options as they grow toward their own careers. Starting early can help a child have a clear vision of their future by the time they are in high school.

Previous Newsletters

If you would like to access the previous Parent and Family Newsletters, click below!



[Back-to-School](#) Newsletter Highlights

This issue covers some basic information on registering for school and the types of bilingual programs available to students.



[Summer](#) Newsletter Highlights

Read to find ways to incorporate learning while having fun.



[Spring](#) Newsletter Highlights

Learn about the state tests your child faces and find out ways to help them succeed.



[Winter](#) Newsletter Highlights

Help your child develop routines that will ensure daily success including morning, homework, and nighttime routines.



[Fall](#) Newsletter Highlights

Identify ways to team up with your child's teacher to support your child throughout the year.



[August](#) Newsletter Highlights

Learn about setting up good routines to prepare for school as well as suggestions on how to add in emotional self-care routines.



[July](#) Newsletter Highlights

Find out what to do if your child has changed schools, help your child develop some practical skills around the house, and get some tips for physical self-care routines.



[June](#) Newsletter Highlights

Learn about ways to keep your child engaged both mentally and physically. Also, check out numerous websites for local and digital adult English classes.



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