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National PTA Offers Parents Advice To Help Their Children's Reading Skills

Many parents wonder what they can do to get their children off to a good start in reading. Should they invest in a computer and educational software? Should they buy the phonics program they heard advertised on the radio? Actually, the most precious gift a parent can give a beginning reader is time--time spent enjoying a good book together.

Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D., addresses childhood reading in the February issue of PTA Today. "A relaxed, informal introduction to reading is just what the young child needs," says Jalongo. "Children need to be invited into the world of literature, not dragged," she continues.

Jalongo believes that reading aloud increases children's vocabulary, reading achievement scores, listing and speaking abilities, letter and symbol recognition, and the ability to understand language and thinking skills. "Perhaps the most important result of reading aloud is the development of positive attitudes toward reading," states Jalongo.

The National PTA thinks it is important for parents to select high quality books for their children and recommends several ways to find out not only about the classics but also about new books.

Ask a librarian who specializes in children's literature to suggest some

titles.

- Visit a bookstore that is stocked with high-quality children's books or, better yet, one that specializes in children's books.

- Ask a teacher to recommend some titles that are geared to your child's reading level, or consult a children's literature textbook.

- Go to your school's book fair or purchase paperback books through a classroom book club.

- Apply some basic criteria of your own, such as: does the content and level seem appropriate? Do the pictures complement the story? Do preschoolers respond enthusiastically to the book? Would I enjoy sharing the book with my child?

The February issue of the National PTA's award-winning magazine focuses on the theme, "Cherish the Child." Other articles appearing in PTA Today include the kindergarten-readiness characteristics to look for if you think your child is ready for kindergarten and whether birth order really influences a child's development.

Copies of PTA Today are available for \$2.50 each by sending a check or money order made payable to the National PTA, 700 N. Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611. The magazine is published seven times a year (October-May, December/January combined issues), and subscriptions are \$10/year.

Multnomah Sheriff's Office Makes Donations

At 10:00 A.M., on Tuesday, January 14, 1992, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office delivered over 1600 pounds of canned food to SNOWCAP, 1740 SE 139th Avenue.

The food donation is the result of the Sheriff's Office and Multnomah County Parks Department's efforts over the holidays in recycling Christmas trees and charging two cans of food for the service.

"We must realize that the hunger and needs of many people in Multnomah County does not simply end when the holidays are over," said Sheriff Bob Skipper. "We plan to continue sharing with the less fortunate among us and hope that others remember to help throughout the year."

The Christmas tree recycling at the Multnomah County Inverness Jail will resume next Christmas season.

Recruitment Contract Awarded

The Oregon Department of Transportation has awarded a contract to provide minority recruitment and placement services for highway construction projects in the Portland metropolitan area. Under terms of the 18 month, \$74,000 contract, S. Brooks and Associates, Inc., will screen and refer workers to prime contractors in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. Contractors interested in qualified apprentice- or journey-level laborers, equipment operators, cement masons, truck drivers, electricians, carpenters and iron workers are encouraged to contact S. Brooks and Associates, at 284-7930.

For more information about ODOT's minority recruitment program, contact Bill Hayden, Oregon Department of Transportation, Civil Rights Section, Room 105, Transportation Building, Salem, OR 97310. Phone Hayden at 378-8077.

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Commissioner Lindberg Takes New Year Look Ahead to Redevelopment of Willamette River's Eastbank

At a riverside news conference January 9, 1992, City Commissioner Mike Lindberg took advantage of the new year to look ahead to the City's vision for the redevelopment of the Willamette River's eastbank. Intended to complement the westside's Tom McCall Waterfront Park, the eastbank redevelopment project calls for dramatically improved public open space extending from the Oregon Convention Center to the north to the new OMSI location at the foot of the Marquam Bridge to the south.

"We have an extraordinary opportunity here to transform what is now an under-used and under-developed area into one of the city's greatest assets," said Commissioner Lindberg. "The beginning of the new year is the perfect time to resolve to work together to make this vision a reality."

Key to the implementation of this vision is the Eastbank Master Plan Process Report, a joint project of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Portland Development Commission (PDC) which will lead to a phased plan guiding future eastbank development over the next decade. Throughout the project, public involvement will be actively sought to guide the design and master-planning process. The Eastbank

Master Plan Process Report will be presented to City Council for approval on January 22, along with "Portland's Vision for the Willamette River," a document outlining Portland's overall policy for Willamette River development. Emphasized in both documents is the goal to increase eastside river access for the public through a landscaped pedestrian/bicycle trail, new waterside attractions and, potentially, a river taxi system.

Stressing that development of the eastbank will help unify the city, Commissioner Lindberg noted, "We have worked for over 20 years to transform the westside riverfront into an award-winning park. Now it is time to turn our attention to the eastside riverfront with an eye toward knitting the east and west sides together and providing increased public access, views and activities."

Greg Wentworth, president of the Central Eastside Industrial Council, applauded the eastbank redevelopment plans. "This will be one of the best things that ever happened to the eastside. I'm very excited about the positive impact it will have on our neighborhood, and the catalyst it will be for future business development." Commissioner Lindberg has responsibility for overseeing the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Northeast Neighborhood Coalition And The Portland Housing Center Sponsor Housing Forum

On January 30th and February 6th, 1992 City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury will host a two-part forum on housing opportunities and issues sponsored by the Northeast Neighborhood Coalition's Livability committee and the Portland Housing Center. Both events will take place in the King School Cafeteria at 4815 NE 7th.

The first meeting will focus on affordable homeownership opportunities for NE residents. Representatives from non-profit corporations and the City of Portland will be on hand to discuss their programs. The Portland Housing Center will also explain how it assists potential buyers through the complicated home-loan process. The evening will begin with an open house from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by a presentation from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Approximately ten groups will each give a short presentation on their organizations, and then take questions from the audience. In one evening, NE residents will have the opportunity to

gather information on a variety of existing programs and services that are currently available.

The second night of the forum will be a round table on housing policy. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., Commissioner Kafoury and a panel of housing policy makers will have an open discussion on issues and policies affecting Northeast.

The evening will begin with the policy-makers working to solve a number of hypothetical situations that will be presented to them by the NE Coalition's Livability Community members picking the topics for discussion. Representatives of Multnomah County, the State Housing Agency, PDC and the Portland Planning Bureau will join Commissioner Kafoury. "If we are to build stable neighborhoods, it is critical that we involve citizens in the shaping of housing policy," said Commissioner Kafoury. "I am looking forward to the chance to talk about what we have done so far, and what we still need to do."

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