

## Parent's Corner



BY RON HERNDON

**Parent's Preamble:** I will ensure my child receives a quality education. If I don't fight for my child's education, no one else will. It's worth the effort. My child's future depends upon me.

A friend, very knowledgeable about early childhood education, recently said that the difference in vocabulary between children who have been read to daily is massive: Twenty thousand word vocabulary for children who have been read to daily up to the age of five; Four thousand word vocabulary for children who have not been read to.

Many parents have shared that they understand how important it is to read to their children for at least 15 minutes every day. The question often asked is, which books should they select?

Elaine Harrison, a well respected early childhood educator, made the following recommendations:

### AGES 3-5

1. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See* by Bill Martin Jr.
2. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.
3. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
4. *Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You See* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
5. *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
6. *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret W. Brown
7. *The Snowy Day; Whistle for Willie; Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats
8. *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
9. *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
10. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
11. *Opuestos: The Mexican Folk Art Opposites* (English and Spanish) by Martin Santiago
12. *ABeCedarios: Mexican Folk Art ABCs in English and Spanish* (English and Spanish) by Moisés Jimenez

### AGES 6-9

1. *Green Eggs and Ham; The Cat in the Hat, One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, The Lorax; Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss
2. *Alexander and The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
3. *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
4. *Are You My Mother?* by Philip D. Eastman
5. *Arthur* by Marc Talon Brown
6. *Curious George* by Hans Augusto Rey
7. *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
8. *Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes* by Alice Schertle
9. *My People* by Langston Hughes
10. *Once in a Wood: Ten Tales from Aesop* by Eve Rice
11. *My Abuelita* by Tony Johnson
12. *What Can You Do With a Paleta? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* (English and Spanish Edition) by Magaly Morales

13. *Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day; Celebramos El dia de los niños/El dia de los* by Pat Mora

Parents, reading and sharing these books with your children will have a much more profound impact on their future college graduation than playing video games and watching television.

Ron Herndon is a longtime advocate for educational opportunities for African-American children. He has served as director of Head Start in Portland since 1975.

## Military Recruiters Policy Adopted

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Counter recruiters are expected to gain access to Portland high schools beginning in January.

District lawyer Jollee Patterson said Portland will model its rules on other school districts, including Seattle, that have had so-called "equal access" policies for years without legal problems.

Beginning in 1995, the Portland school board banned military recruitment in schools, primarily because of the military's discrimination against gays. But in 2001, the federal No Child Left Behind law

required that military recruiters get the same access to public high school campuses and to students' addresses and home phone numbers that college recruiters do.

"We have difficulty making inroads to even get into those Portland schools," said Lt. Col. Cary Miller, chief operations officer for Oregon Army National Guard recruiting. "My recruiting force is a professional force. They're not going to step out of line or lie to kids."

He said his recruiters try to reach Portland teens less directly, through sponsoring basketball

tournaments, staffing booths at festivals and putting a float in the Rose Parade.

The War Resisters League, Veterans for Peace and other groups hold regular sidewalk protests outside Portland high schools, said John Grueschow, coordinator of the Resisters League's military and draft counseling programs.

"We feel that, since the military is required to be let in there, there should be some response," Grueschow said. "We should have the same opportunity they do to present students information."

--The Associated Press.

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