



# SYLVAN NEWSLETTER

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## READY, SET, READ: INSPIRING YOUNG CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN READING

*Understanding and Nurturing Reading Skills for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Children*

By: Kathy White  
Sylvan Learning Center

Reading is an adventure that begins early in a child's life and should extend beyond the classroom. Children exhibit certain reading behaviors at a young age. By understanding and nurturing these behaviors, parents can make reading fun and inspire their children to develop a lifelong friendship with books.

For pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children, this is their first introduction to reading. They are just beginning to understand that print holds meaning and use illustrations to give meaning to stories and words. Younger children enjoy listening to stories read aloud, and by engaging children in the world of reading, parents can help their children become more proficient readers. Sylvan Learning Center recommends that parents spend at least one hour per week – 10 to 15 minutes a day – performing some type of a reading activity with children.

To help parents nurture their children's reading behaviors, the experts at Sylvan Learning Center, the leading provider of in-center and live, online tutoring at home to students of all ages and skill levels, offer these tips and ideas for reading at home with pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students:

- Make cookies together. Read the recipe aloud to your child.
- Read directions to your child when completing a project.
- Subscribe to a magazine for your child (*Ladybug*, *Your Big Backyard*, *Zoobooks*, etc.) to learn about topics of interest to him.
- Pick a storybook character (Arthur, Strega Nona, etc.) and pretend that character is coming for dinner. Help your child plan activities that character would like.
- Help your child relate read-aloud stories to events in her life.
- Read stories aloud and act them out.
- Engage your entire family with “Drop Everything And Read” time each day.



# APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

## BRIDGEPORT CENTER

April 3—Hunter  
 April 10—Sophia  
 April 19—Anna Marie  
 April 22—Alejandra  
 April 23—Jacob C  
 April 24—Erika P  
 April 25—Mr. Kirk



## MORGANTOWN CENTER

April 3—Gabrielle  
 April 7—Jesse H  
 April 11—Lauren A  
 April 16—Dakota S  
 April 16—Eli S  
 April 19—Matt D

## THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR COLLEGE?

Over 30% of college students drop out after the first year and almost 50% never graduate, according to the US Department of Education. “A large number of students are ill-equipped for the challenges of college” says Vincent Tinto, chair of the Higher Education Program at Syracuse University. Tinto says students devote so much time to the admissions process, they forget to focus on what lies ahead: **challenging academics**, living away from home, **learning time management skills**, and taking responsibility for their own lives.

Although your child may have earned great grades in high school, college is much more demanding. They will need to study longer and spend more time reading books and writing papers. I was talking to a student that graduated last year from a local high school, her comments were telling...

*“I was the salutatorian of my high school, so I wasn’t used to getting anything less than an ‘A’. When I got a ‘C’ on my first chemistry test, I was like, Whoa, what’s this? This must be some kind of a mistake. My professor told me college academics were a completely different ballgame and you had to play by different rules. I realized that the 30 minutes I studied for a test in high school just didn’t cut it in college. The professors don’t hand out study guides like in high school my notes were disorganized and incomplete. I just didn’t think college would be so different”*

You can help your child prepare for the challenges of college by enrolling them in the Sylvan College Prep Program. This exciting program includes Sylvan Advanced Reading, College Prep Writing 101, and Time Management.

**Sylvan Advanced Reading** improves students Effective Reading Rate (ERR). ERR is a measure of reading speed and comprehension. Students completing this program at our Morgantown center have averaged over 180% increase in their ERR. **College Prep Writing 101** is designed to sharpen the writing, research, and analysis skills needed to succeed in college. **Time Management** is the proven module from our highly successful Study Skills program. Provides insight and strategies to help your student manage their time more effectively and improve study habits.

Taught in 25 (2-hour) instructional sessions. Sylvan College Prep will give your child that extra boost to insure a smooth transition from high school to college.

Talk to Heather or Melissa today about this exciting program



# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> April Fools Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> North Pole Discovered	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Listening Day	<b>10</b> Encourage a young writer day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Thomas Jefferson B'day	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pet Owners Day	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b> Secretary's Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Hug a Friend Day
<b>27</b> Tell a Story Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> National Honesty Day			