

LITERACY NEWS



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IT'S NANO TIME!

November is **NANOWRIMO (National Novel Writing Month)**! All students in English classes from Kindergarten to 12th grade will be participating this year. Every day there will be time allotted during class for students to write creatively. Students will be working with the same characters for an entire month! Students can also participate with the rest of the world by logging onto the NANO website at <http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/> This is a website where your child can log on to be part of a larger writing community. If

parents want to join several of the WSD teachers, staff, and the big NANOWRIMO world, please logon to: <http://nanowrimo.org>

It would be great to see you all there in the cyber world of writing. This will be my 4th year, and yes, my 4th novel. The other three sit quietly on a shelf waiting to be edited. I must admit there is no better way to share the experience of writing with a child than to share the pain and agony of a month of it and the glorious victory of the accom-

plishment at the end! Please support your child by keeping stacks of paper around for ideas, pencils sharpened and computers at the ready if you've got them.

On your mark, get set..... WRITE!!!!

-Ginger Speranza

<b>November 2008</b>						
						1 <i>NaNoWriMo Begins!</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Barnes & Noble Signed Read aloud 10 am
9	10 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13 <i>Library Libby</i>	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Barnes & Noble Signed Read aloud 10 am
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
				Thanksgiving Break		

## P A R E N T   T I P S   F O R   E N C O U R A G I N G   W R I T I N G



- ◆ **Have your child write down his/her order in restaurants.**
- ◆ **Encourage your child to write letters to family and friends**
- ◆ **Set up a daily journal where you and your child write to each other.**
- ◆ **Make a family joke book.**
- ◆ **Allow your child to email friends and family on the computer.**
- ◆ **Correct your child's spelling and punctuation only if asked. Focus only on one skill so your child doesn't become overwhelmed.**
- ◆ **Praise the good ideas in your child's writing and use of invented spelling.**
- ◆ **Keep a family journal of trips, favorite restaurants, funny stories, visitors, movies, etc. Ask your child to add comments and reactions.**
- ◆ **Keep materials available (old checks, telephone message pads, paper, markers, pens and pencils) for your child to play with.**

# W

**riting for Today and Tomorrow** - Writing is essential to a literate society. Writing can be an act of discovery, of communication, of joy. It connects us to work, to culture, to society, to existing knowledge, and to the meanings of our lives.

**What Is Writing?** - Writing is the learned process of shaping experiences into text, allowing the writer to discover, develop, clarify and communicate thoughts and feelings. Writing requires and supports the development of thinking skills. Learning to write brings the learner into the literate community as an active participant in the conversation. Writing is our catalyst for creating the future.

Committed writers use writing for a wide spectrum of practical, economic, social, personal and aesthetic purposes. Engaged writers use a language that is alive, flexible and adaptable to the highest expression of which the human being is capable.

The above excerpt is an taken from the website for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Washington (OSPI). WSD strives to adhere to and follow the educational guidelines set by OSPI.

-Shauna Bilyeu