

Literacy

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. Dr. Seuss



Literacy Passion and Tumbleweeds

Teaching reading involves instilling a passion for reading within children. How do we teach passion? We instill passion by modeling to students each and every day the joy we as teachers have experienced when reading the plethora of novels lining the shelves in our classrooms. Here at Nose Creek there are always students brimming with excitement wanting to add to classroom book talks sharing their special finds. Day by day, the class conversation picks up momentum like a tumbleweed rolling across the prairie, continually rolling, picking up bits and pieces of literary matter as it travels. Conversations like the tumbleweed are free flowing, changing speed at times, and allowing for students to process what the discussion has meant to them. Another day brings new circumstances and the tumbleweed carries on, sometimes in another direction, but taking with it the previous content.

Upon entering our school, you will immediately notice that Reading Literacy is of the utmost importance at Nose Creek Elementary. "Learn to Read, Love to Read" adorns our walls, doors, our red spirit wear, letterhead and is even part of our school song enjoyed by all every Friday morning. Everyone involved in the schooling of your children, is committed to creating an environment where not only do they learn to read, but do so with passion. At Nose Creek you will find students throughout the school marking rich literacy passages with sticky notes, discussing characters and the events they are reading about. Students share, personal connections, connections between self and community and self and world.

A great deal of time and energy goes into developing our literary collection, because as teachers we are looking to read and enjoy quality literature and are intent on promoting the "cream of the crop" to our students. The novel collections within our school are hand picked and reflect many of the best novels available for students.

Like the travels of a tumbleweed, teachers are prepared for conversations and questions that go in various directions based upon ah – ha moment's students have when the "light" goes on and deep connective learning happens. Here at Nose Creek School we are interested in your child's understanding of the world, who they are as a learner (metacognition) and how they see themselves as an individual and as a student.

To help ensure your child, our student, becomes a successful reader, we encourage students to simply read at times, free from the historic drill exercises imposed when reading a school novel. Nothing will dull the enthusiasm of a story faster than having to fill out related worksheets, and creating the book reports we are so familiar with. That is like a fence post putting a halt to the momentum the tumbleweed has acquired. Of course dissecting a novel as a template for students to understand literacy is important. Once this is done we encourage students to select different literary genres, exploring the world around them through print. Like the tumbleweed, students will be propelled in unexpected directions by literacy forces.

Top Grade 4 Book Picks.

- **The Kite Fighters**
By: Linda Sue Park

- **Silver**

- By : Gloria Whelan

- **The One and Only Ivan**
By: K. A. Applegate

- **Airborn**

- By: Kenneth Oppel

- **Alexandria of Africa**
By: Eric Walters

- **Wonder**

- By: R. J. Palacio

Take some time to talk with your children about books.

