Messages From The Principal

Trivia Night
A special thanks to our music teachers, Mrs Mac, Mrs Hugo and the dedicated instrumental music support committee members for hosting an evening of entertainment and laughter on Friday 29 April at the annual trivia night. One of our largest audiences was entertained by master of ceremonies, Peter Hugo and his many rounds of questions which challenged our thinking and kept us in stitches! It was a great night and congratulations must go to ‘The Unprepared’ team for winning! The Dream Team and The PR Gang came second and third respectively. All proceeds will go towards costs associated with our music tour which will be held from 7-9 November in the Sunshine Coast region.

Lace up and walk safely to school – Friday 20 May
Parents and students are encouraged to lace up their shoes and take part in Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 20 May. You are invited to get up early on this day and join thousands of other Australians walking all or part of the way to school. For those who live too far to walk, why not try parking the car a few blocks away and walking the rest of the way? The day promotes the important message that active kids are healthy kids. At Virginia, we invite you to join us at locations where staff will meet students and walk them to school as a group. The meeting time will be 8:30am and the meeting points include ARC Hill Park (Goss Park), Goss Rd, Virginia; Warburton Park, Norths St Joseph’s JRLFC, Wellington St, Virginia and Nicholson Place Park, Gympie St, Virginia. Ice blocks will be supplied to all students who participate in Walk Safely to School Day. For more information visit the Walk Safely to School website at www.walk.com.au.

We say thanks to our parents and citizens association – P&C Day Friday 13 May
At this week’s assembly we will acknowledge the volunteers who make up our active P&C association. Now in its fourth year, P&C Day provides us with a chance to thank our volunteers for their support and the tireless work they do each year to improve educational facilities, resources and student conditions. Members give their personal time and effort to us, helping to shape our school’s strategic directions and policy decisions, fundraising (Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls) and organising family fun days, running the tuckshop, uniform shop, swim club, instrumental music support committee and helping with our sporting and classroom activities. To celebrate P&C Day, our school will be hosting a special (food) treat at the next general meeting which will be held on Wednesday 25 May at 6:30pm in the computer lab. New members are always welcome.

GALA Sport for years 5 and 6 – 20, 27 May, 3 June
Years 5 and 6 students will participate in interschool sports at 2 venues (either side of Shaw Road) this term. Tag league (boys) will be held at Norths Rugby Union, Shaw Park, Shaw Rd Woolloomin and touch football (girls) will be held at the Valley’s Hockey Club, Shaw Rd Wavell Heights. Students are reminded to bring water, sun protection and return permission notices and payment to the office ($27.60) prior to 13 May. Full school uniform, a wide brimmed hat and closed in shoes are also required.
**Musical Morning of Madness (MMM) – Thursday 26 May**

All families and friends are invited to our musical morning of madness which will be held at our multipurpose shed from 9 – 11am on Thursday 26 May. This will be held in conjunction with the Queensland Cancer Foundation’s ‘Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea’. All year levels will perform an item along with our band and choirs. There will be plenty of food on sale including sausages on bread, cakes, tea, coffee and morning tea plus a multidraw raffle with lots of wonderful prizes to be won. The morning promises to be an exciting one with the proceeds going to the Instrumental Music Support Committee (IMSC) and The Queensland Cancer Council. If you can assist Mrs Mac by making some yummy food, assisting on a stall or donating gifts for the raffles, please contact her at kmcle9@eq.edu.au.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Reading opens up a world of educational opportunities for young people, providing the foundation for learning for the rest of their life. An enjoyment of books not only encourages an active imagination but allows the reader to learn about their world and develop literacy skills. The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) aims to improve children’s literacy, cultivate a passion for literature and encourage children to read widely for pleasure and learning. More than 89 000 students successfully completed the challenge reading over 1.95 million books last year. More than half of the students from our school successfully completed the challenge in 2015. The Premier is challenging every child from Prep to Year 2 to read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 to read 20 books and Year 5 to read 15 books between 16 May and 26 August 2016.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge recognises the range of student abilities in Queensland classrooms. All students are encouraged to participate because the challenge is not a competition, but a way to provide greater involvement and develop a love of reading for life. Children who take up the challenge and read the required number of books will receive a signed certificate from the Premier in November. Every student from our school will be signed up for the challenge. Reading Logs will be shipped to all students shortly. Happy reading! I look forward to seeing as many of our students as possible embrace the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge. More information can be found at http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge/

**Dance Lessons next term - $20 per student**

Footsteps Dance Company will be conducting 8 forty minute dance lessons with all students next term – each Tuesday (except week 2 and week 6). Students will be assessed on their dance skills and this will contribute towards their overall achievement for The Arts. The cost of the program will be $20 per student. It is anticipated that all students will engage in this quality program that is being conducted by dance experts. Invoices will be provided to parents shortly.

![Tim Farrell](image.jpg)

**Tim Farrell**
Principal

**From The Deputy’s Desk**

**Spare Clothing**

Every now and then we need to provide children a change of clothing during the day (they can have an accident, spill food on themselves or a range of other events), unfortunately we are running very low on clothing in the office at this point in time. If you have got clothing that your youngest child has outgrown and you are willing to donate these we would very much appreciate your donation. Additionally if we loan your child clothing we appreciate them being washed and returned to school so other children can use them when required.

**Personal Information Update**

Every youngest in the family student will receive a coloured sheet for families to update their information. For some families this information is relatively new in our system however for some families who have been part of our school for longer this information could be out of date. We would appreciate it if every family could complete the form and return it to the office to enable us to ensure we have the most current information possible.

**Powerful Learning**

Our primary goal at Virginia is to ensure every child has the best opportunity to achieve at the highest level possible. One of the ways in which we do this is to provide our staff with ongoing training and professional development. Our school is part of a region wide project involving 29 schools called Powerful Learning. The core objectives of this program are:

- Improve student outcomes and develop student learning skills
Improve the quality of teaching by strengthening and expanding the repertoire of teachers with all teachers familiar with and able to employ the ten theories of action and

Reduce variability in teaching through the implementation of school improvement teams, teacher planning teams, peer observation, new operating structures and the effective use of data and research Currently our teaching staff are focused on “Harnessing Learning Intentions, Narrative and Pace” as our theory of action. Staff have undertaken a number of visits to each other’s classroom to observe and provide feedback to each other. We have had experts come in and provide information sessions and we have staff who are engaging in regular region wide programs.

As educators we believe in lifelong learning to enhance both our own skills and the skills and knowledge of the children whom we teach.

NAPLAN is nearly over for another year and I’m sure all of our students have done their best. NAPLAN is an important part of our testing but it is only one small part. The data we receive from this test almost always aligns with where we expect students to achieve. It is important to plot this against national development to ensure we continue to move our students forward however remember NAPLAN only tests a very small area of your academic skill.

All of our students at Virginia State School have a range of skills and knowledge that makes them special.

Regards
Pam Coyle
Deputy Principal

Administration Matters

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<th>Student Resource Scheme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 instalment payments now due</td>
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<th>Yr 6 Canberra Camp</th>
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<td>$207.50 instalment 2 - now overdue</td>
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<td>$207.50 instalment 3 due by 13 May</td>
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<th>Instrumental Music fees</th>
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<th>Creative Generation fees</th>
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<th>Gala Day Sport - yrs5-6</th>
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<th>Prep Bunyaville excursion</th>
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<th>Year 5 Camp</th>
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<td>Deposit due by 17 June</td>
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Year 6 Canberra Camp

A reminder that the third instalment payment for Yr 6 Canberra Camp is due Friday, 13 May. Instalment 4 due 10 June

STUDENT ABSENCES

Phone: (07) 3621 6260
Email: absences@virginiass.eq.edu.au

Office hours are Monday to Friday
8.15am – 3.45pm
Important Dates

### May

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Naplan Testing - Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3B Assembly Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Premier’s Reading Challenge commences</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>3K Assembly Performance</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Walk Safely to School Day</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Gala Sports Day (Years 5-6)</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Creative Generation Rehearsal</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Prep Excursion to Bunyaville</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Music Morning of Madness 9-11am</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Gala Sports Day (Years 5-6)</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>2M Assembly Performance</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Channel 10 Weather Cross</td>
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### June

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Sandgate District High School Band - 2.15pm</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Band Photos</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2C Assembly Performance</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Gala Sport Day (Years 5-6)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Beginner Band Blitz – IM Beginner Students</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Bramble Bay Softball Trials</td>
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<td>2S Assembly Performance</td>
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<td>Creative Generation Rehearsal – Chandler</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>1T Assembly Performance</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Shake n Stir Year 2 &amp; Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Report Cards</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>School Disco Prep-year 3 - 4.30-6pm Year 4-6 – 6.30-8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Free Dress Day – Gold Coin Donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Interhouse Athletics Carnival</td>
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### Around The School

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Robert Hawgood (12 years) and Oliver Wilson (11 years) on their selection into the Bramble Bay Cross Country Team. Both boys performed very well at the recent carnival at St Pauls finishing 3rd and 4th respectively.

### Under 8’s Day Friday 16 September

Planning is underway for this year’s Under 8s Day. Each year we aim to offer a range of activities for the children’s education and enjoyment. We are looking for contributions from our school community. Have you seen an excellent performer? Do you have any contacts with organisations who might be interested in attending? Please send any ideas to Helen Holleran at hholl1@eq.edu.au.

### Music Keynotes

**Events Term 2**

- **MMM** - Thursday 26 May 9am-11.00am
- **Band Photo** - Thursday 2 June, 9.30am
- **Channel 10 Weather Cross** - Mon 30 May (Concert band/stage band + lead vocals). This event will require students to stay after school for a rehearsal and hopefully some yummy afternoon tea provided by parents??
- **CG rehearsals**

### Donations

(send to office before 18 May please)

Donations for raffles and door prizes for MMM would be fabulous. We run multiple raffles at MMM and your donations will assist greatly! Some suggestions for donations:

- Movie vouchers
- itunes vouchers
- coffee packs- cups/ coffee/ chocolates etc
- tea packs- cups/teas/pots/ etc
- garden packs- gloves/ tools/ plants/ pots
- Pamper packs
- Dad pack- car wash stuff/ tools/ Bunnings vouchers
- Children packs- colour pencils/ colour books/ paint supplies

### Trivia Night

This is an adult evening of fun and laughter and should be attended by all! Get your team of 6-8 organised, make up your team name, fill out the registration form (attached) and pay your money (cash please?) at the office or to Mrs Mc. Teams come dressed up in themes; BYO food and drinks; BYO friends.

We need some helpers to set up the hall from 2-3pm on Friday 29 April. If you can come, please bring some scissors and tape. Does anyone have a contact at a local nursery? We love having some plants to decorate the hall for our night, and in the past have had a local nursery bring some plants to the hall for us to use (and then they come back and collect them as well!!!) Please let me know if you can help with this?

### MMM - Thursday 26 May

This is a huge morning of music, raffles, cooking and gathering. Every class sings; every choir sings; every band performs. Bring friends, grandparents (BYO chair if possible), gold coins for raffles, coffee and cake. Grab a sausage and sit and be entertained for the whole morning. I need lots of helpers on the day, so please fill out the helper sheet (attached) and send it back to the office by the due date. Students will be able to order sausages and juice prior to the event. (you can use the attached form if you wish).
**Band Photos - Thursday 2 June**

Our band photo day is Thursday 2 June at 9.30am. We will have band rehearsal at 7.30am and then move to the hall for our photo. This will be the first rehearsal for our beginners joining the band, so everyone will need to wear their band uniform to school and then change into school uniform after the photo. Please help your child to be organized for this day, including band uniforms and packing of school uniforms.

**P&C News**

Mrs McLennan and her team ran a wonderful trivia night in the school hall on Friday 29th April. It is always pleasing to see our school community come together for social events like this as it strengthens our connections with one another.

To build on from the success of the trivia night, the P & C will be hosting, in the school hall, the State of Origin 1, Wednesday 1st June, at 7:30pm, live on the big screen. Tickets can be pre-purchased or available at the door. $5 for adults; all kids are free.

A door raffle, soft drinks and food will be available for sale. To avoid disappointment we ask if you could pre-order your hot selections. Most products will be available to purchase on the night in limited quantities. BYO alcohol is permitted but within reason please.

For pre-sale ticket and food orders or for any other information please email virginiasstickets@gmail.com

**P & C Meeting**

The next P & C meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th April at 6.30 pm in the computer lab. New members are always welcome.

**Uniform Shop News**

Track Tops and Senior Track Tops are now in - get one for your child before the weather gets really cold! You can order in three ways - via email to uniforms@virginiass.eq.edu.au, via the order form available at the VSS web site or use Our Online Canteen.

Pencil cases are now just $6 while stocks last. We won't be restocking them, so first in best dressed.

If you have any spare plastic shopping bags that you don't need, the Uniform Shop is looking for some. Donations gratefully accepted.

**Tuck-Inn News**

We are now well into term 2. We are still getting online orders with incorrect classes on them. Please check to make sure class details have been updated for the new school year, or lunches may end up in the wrong class box.

The menu was updated for term 2, which included some price increases. We are still getting bag orders with the old prices. You can find the menu on the school website under "Tuckshop". From this week, we will be sending home notes for any under payments.

If you order sushi (online) on Thursday, as well as a meal for Thursday, Please!!! make a note in "Special Instructions" so we know what food items are for Thursday and what goes with Friday's sushi.

Don't forget to order your Friday Night Meals by Wednesday.

Music Morning of Madness is on May 26th! Please support the music program by ordering a sausage for your child's lunch. I believe you can find an order form in the school newsletter. There will be NO TUCKSHOP on that day. We will have over the counter sales at 1st & 2nd break, but no prepared food.

Don't forget if you have any questions or would like to volunteer, you can pop in and see us.

Leah & Trudi

**Community News**

**Homework Help**

Any students needing help with reading, writing, assignments or school work are welcome to join us in the library for this free service for primary and high school students throughout the school term. We have workbooks, iPads and computers available as needed. The sessions are run by senior school students from St Patrick's and St Rita’s and staff are available for extra help.

Homework Help is available every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 -4:45pm at Zillmere Library. If any staff or parents need any more information please call us on 07 3403 1455.
Brisbane City Council Libraries Gold Star Reading Club

The Gold Star Reading Club will kick off in Council libraries across the city on Tuesday 3 May 2016.

There are five great reasons for children to get involved in the 2016 Gold Star Reading Club.

1. Membership to the Gold Star Reading Club is FREE!
2. The Gold Star Reading Club can help children improve their reading and literacy skills.
3. Children will be rewarded for reading with exciting monthly incentives – a bookmark, a bubble pen and a library bag.
4. The opportunity for all participants to enter the monthly draw to win a $25 book voucher.
5. It’s FUN! Children will have fun sharing their reading experiences with family and friends.

This is a great opportunity for parents to share in their children’s reading achievements.

To register your child for the Gold Star Reading Club, simply visit [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries) or your local library to complete a registration form.

For more information about the Gold Star Reading Club, visit your local library or call Council on 3403 8888.
Enrol your child in Prep for 2017 at Virginia State School

"Many different learners - one Virginia Spirit"

Prep Information Night
Wednesday 15 June
6:30 pm
In the Virginia SS library

Please come along to our Information Night to find out about Virginia Prep.

If your child was born between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, they are eligible to start the Prep year in 2017.

Contact the office on 3621 6222 for an enrolment form. Please enrol early to help our school finalise numbers, classes and resources for next year in order to provide the best outcome for your child.

You are also welcome to join us for under 8s celebrations on Friday 16 September from 9:00-11:00 in the prep precinct at school.

Find out more information about Prep at Virginia State School on our website at www.virginiass.eq.edu.au
Enrol your child in Prep for 2017 at Virginia State School
“Many different learners – one Virginia Spirit”

We have a number of pre-prep events at Virginia in 2016

- Wednesday 15 June – parent info session 6:30pm (in library)
- Friday 17 June 9:00-10:00 am - Learning Day (in classrooms)
- Wednesday 17 August – parent info session 6:30pm (in library)
- Tuesday 23 August 9:00-10:00 am – Learning Day (in classrooms)
- Friday 16 September 9:00-11:00 am – Under 8s Day (prep precinct)
  - Tuesday 18 October 9:00-11:00 – Open Day (in classrooms)
  - Thursday 20 October 9:00-11:00 – Open Day (in classrooms)

Learning Days – a chance to familiarise your child with prep.
Under 8s – hands on learning fun with our prep –year 3s
Open Days – experience a morning as a prep student

Contact the office on 3621 6222 for an enrolment form.
Please enrol early to help our school finalise numbers, classes and resources for next year in order to provide the best outcome for your child.

Find out more information about Prep at Virginia State School on our website at www.virginiass.eq.edu.au
Recently I read a report entitled “The Australian Kids and Family Reading Report, (by Yougov and Scholastic, 2015) and it was fascinating reading. There’s a lot of data, and some included actual comments from kids and parents in the more detailed sections. Here are a couple of findings I was struck by:

*Children whose Principals encourage reading books for fun are more likely than those without encouragement from their Principal to read frequently, to think reading is important, and to love reading books for fun or like it a lot.

**Here at Virginia, our Principal, Mr. Farrell, congratulates students on a regular basis on their reading achievements. Every week he reads then signs certificates acknowledging students successes in Accelerated Reader. (We are averaging 50 students every week.)**

*Children aged 6 – 17 who are given time for independent reading at school are more likely to be reading currently and frequently, and are more likely to enjoy reading books for fun and believe it is important compared with those who are not; this is especially true for older children.

**Here at Virginia, all our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classes have independent reading time every day when they can read their Library books.**

*An overwhelming majority of kids aged 6 -17 agree that their favourite books – and the ones they are most likely to finish – are the ones they pick out themselves.

**Here at Virginia, all students from Prep to Year 6 come to the Library every week and select their own books to read.**

*Above all, children aged 6 -17 want books that make them laugh, and what parents want in books for children is often the same as what kids want for themselves.

**Here at Virginia we are continually adding new books to our collection that are popular and new releases are purchased regularly based on the interests of our students.**

Libraries, school book fairs and book club catalogues, and bookshops are the leading sources children aged 6 – 17 use to find books to read for fun.

**Here at Virginia every week we display new books for the students to check out before they are placed in the collection. Also during Library Lessons students are given ‘snippets’ of some of these new books to get them interested. We provide book club catalogues at least twice every term.**We hold a Book Fair for 2 weeks in Term 4.
So, I believe we have in place many of the recommendations made by this report and as a result we have a school population that is enjoying their reading. Congratulations Virginia!

“I love to learn and laugh and be inspired by books.”
—10-year-old girl, Victoria – Metro

“There are so many different stories that I would not have heard of if I didn’t read.”
—15-year-old boy, New South Wales – Regional

“I love to escape in a book with a great storyline and characters.”
—16-year-old girl, Tasmania

“Reading connects me to my friends and we have something to talk about.”
—14-year-old girl, Victoria – Metro

“I love to read so I can learn more.”
—6-year-old girl, Queensland – Metro

“If I read more, I get to learn new words and improve my thinking. I can use the right words when I try to describe something and I love it.”
—10-year-old girl, Victoria – Metro

“Reading means everything to me and is educational in every way.”
—6-year-old girl, Victoria – Metro
What Makes Frequent Readers: The Most Powerful Predictors

For each age group shown, frequent readers are more likely than infrequent readers to:

- Have parents who are frequent readers
- Strong belief reading books is important
- Parents who give opportunities to talk with classmates about books read for fun
- Use a school book fair or book club catalogue to find books
- Have the opportunity to read independently during the school day
- Want books that "teach me something new"

Kids Aged 12–17:
- I have parents who read them books aloud 3-7 days a week
- Say they love reading books for fun of it like it’s fun
- Have been told their reading level
- Read mostly out of school
- I have parents who encourage reading books for fun in specific ways
- Have been read aloud to before age one
- Frequently use their reading level to pick out books
- Want books that "have characters that look like me"

These kids read an average of 25.8 books per year vs. 4 by infrequent readers

Kids Aged 6-17:
- Say they love reading books for fun of it like it’s fun
- Have been told their reading level
- Read mostly out of school
- I have parents who encourage reading books for fun in specific ways
- Have been read aloud to before age one
- Frequently use their reading level to pick out books
- Want books that "have characters that look like me"

These kids read an average of 45.6 books per year vs. 17 by infrequent readers

To determine what predicts kids' reading frequency, more than 30 measures were included in regression analysis.

SCHOLASTIC
open a world of possible
**Read Aloud: Start Early & Keep Going**

Percentage of Kids Aged 0–11 Who Are Read Books Aloud 5–7 Days a Week:

- **57%** Kids Aged 0–2
- **56%** Kids Aged 3–5
- **41%** Kids Aged 6–8
- **10%** Kids Aged 9–11

Among parents of kids aged 0–5

- **47% RECEIVED ADVICE** that children should be read aloud from birth

Parents of Kids Aged 0–5 Started Reading Aloud to Their Child:

- **59%** before age one
- **24%** before three months old

Among kids aged 6–17

- **86%** ENJOY(ED) BEING READ ALOUD TO AT HOME because:
  - **76%**: It’s a special time with my parent
  - **63%**: Reading together is fun
  - **55%**: It’s relaxing to be read to before I go to sleep

Among kids aged 6–8 who are no longer read aloud to at home

- **51%** WISH IT HAD CONTINUED

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*SCHOLASTIC*

open a world of possible
What Kids Want In Books

When Reading for Fun, Kids Aged 6–17 Say

- THEY WANT BOOKS THAT:
  - Make me laugh: 61%
  - Tell a made-up story: 41%
  - Let me use my imagination: 51%
  - Have a mystery or problem to solve: 40%
  - Have characters I wish I could be like because they're smart, strong or brave: 44%
  - Teach me something new: 38%
  - My favourite books are the ones I have picked out myself: 91%

- Kids Aged 6–8
  - Are more likely than younger kids to want books that have smart, strong or brave characters.

- Kids Aged 9–11
  - Are more likely than younger kids to want books that have a mystery or problem to solve.

- Kids Aged 12–14
  - Are more likely than younger kids to want books about things they experience in their life.

- Kids Aged 15–17
  - Are more likely than younger kids to want books that tell a true story.

Fictional books that kids have picked out:
- Harry Potter
- The Hunger Games
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- The Railway Children
- Matilda

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