

# The Principal's Corner

## “Move On When Reading” – What does it mean for my kids?

Educators have long known that 3rd grade marks a transition in a child’s literacy development. Before this, most kids are “learning to read;” learning letter sounds, how letters go together to form words, how punctuation is used to group words in sentences and paragraphs, etc. Starting in 3rd grade, they shift to “reading to learn” – using those internalized literacy skills to access concepts in literature, science, history and math.

Because 3rd grade is such a key transition year, the Arizona legislature has passed a law known as “Move On When Reading” (MOWR, A.R.S. §15-701). This law states that if a student has not met minimal standards of literacy by the end of grade 3, as measured by the AzMERIT reading assessment, they must be retained 3rd grade.

In practice, this applies to very few kids statewide. While students get scores on AzMERIT of 1 (Falls Far Below), 2 (Approaching), 3 (Proficient) or 4 (Exceeds), most of those who get a 1 still score above the threshold for MOWR. MOWR also does not apply to English Language Learners with less than two years of English instruction, students with disabilities, or students with significant reading impairments. A scholar who does not meet the mark on AzMERIT can still demonstrate sufficient reading skill through other tests approved by the State Board of Education, and may be able to meet the requirements through summer school instead of repeating the full grade.

Last year, all the 3rd graders at TOPA Sienna Hills qualified for promotion. This year, we have implemented the Wit & Wisdom reading curriculum, which is tightly aligned to the standards tested by AzMERIT. We have also extended our FUNdations phonics program to 3rd grade (before we used it only in K-2). We are confident that our 3rd graders will have the reading skills they need to Move On.

---

## Don't Bother Mom When She's on the Phone!

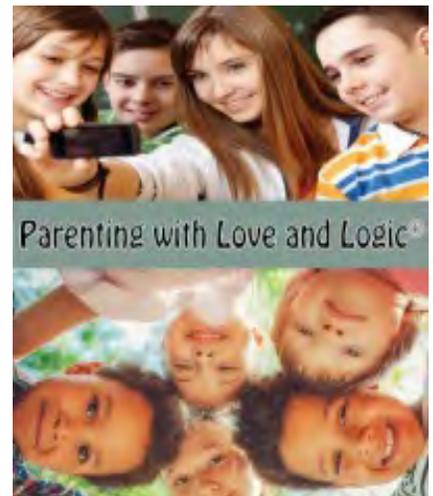
A Lesson from the Love & Logic Institute

“They’re driving me crazy! Every time I’m on the phone they start fighting with each other. If it’s not that, they are asking for things. I haven’t had an uninterrupted phone conversation for months. I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Anna’s children had discovered that they were no longer the center of attention when she talked on the phone. So, they would hang on her, complain, bicker, or beg. She decided to do something about this by using a Love and Logic Training Session.

Anna called one of her friends and explained the problem: “Paula,” Anna said, “my kids are in need of some special training. They are driving me nuts when I get on the phone. Would you be willing to call me several times during the next few days? When they start going through their acts, I’ll put you on hold for a few minutes. I’ll pretend like it’s no big deal that we stop the conversation while I straighten out the kids. That way they are going to find out that inconveniencing me while I’m on the phone is a bad decision. Please call me tomorrow morning and we can have our first training session.”

“Oh, this sounds great!” answered Paula. “Maybe you can do the same thing for me.”



Anna started telling Paula about the Love and Logic Energy Drain technique: "When we are inconvenienced, the time and energy we lose has to be paid back by the kids. This is usually paid back by doing some of the parent's work, like scrubbing toilets, washing windows, or pulling weeds."

Paula called the next morning, and true to form, the kids started in on Anna. She very politely said, "Oh, Paula, I'm so sorry. Would you please hold? We are going to have a Love and Logic moment at our house."

Anna put the phone down, calmly walked over to the kids and said in a stern voice, "I told you that bothering me while I'm on the phone is an Energy Drain. I'm going to have to do something about this. You can wait in your room until I finish."

Anna's kids paid her back for her Energy Drain by pulling weeds that afternoon. Now, if the kids forget and annoy Mom while she is on the phone, she turns to the kids and asks, "Are you sure you want to inconvenience me while I'm on the phone?" This is usually followed by a quick retreat by the kids.

The beauty of the "Energy Drain" technique is that it can be adapted to all types of new and different situations.

Source: Love & Logic "Insiders Club," [Loveandlogicnews.com](http://Loveandlogicnews.com)



## Parenting with Love and Logic®

In this entertaining, fun-filled presentation, Jim and Charles will provide tips and techniques for taking the exhaustion out of parenting little kids. Two sessions available - attend the April 21 morning session, afternoon session, or both!

**\$30.00 – Saturday, April 21, 2018 – Doubletree Hilton Phoenix North – [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com)**

---

### *Lazy Lasagna*

*This is a great quick recipe for a family on the go. Many times, I have made it up in the morning and cook it when I get home. I haven't tried it the night before, but I would be curious if it would work. **Lorrese Roer***

8 servings -- 60 minute cook & prep time

#### Ingredients

- 16 ounces lean ground beef or Italian sausage (or half 'n' half!)
- 2 teaspoons Italian herb seasoning
- 28 ounces jarred pasta sauce
- 16 ounces small curd cottage cheese
- 8-12 NO-BOIL lasagna noodles (or oven bake lasagna noodles)
- 3 cups mozzarella cheese (or more to taste)

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Spray a 9 x 13" baking dish with cooking spray, and set aside.
2. Brown ground beef/sausage and then let cool slightly
3. Stir in pasta sauce and cottage cheese until well combined.
4. Spread about 1/3 of the meat mixture into the bottom of the prepared pan.
5. Arrange uncooked lasagna noodles over the meat, and spread about a cup of cheese over the noodle.
6. Repeat the previous step (1/3 meat, noodles, and cheese) once more.
7. Spread remaining meat and cheese over the top. Cover pan with foil, and bake for 40 minutes.
8. Uncover and cook until top cheese is melted-5 minutes



# It Is That Time of Year: Cold & Flu Season

asalgado@topamail.com

Cold and Flu season is officially here and we want to make sure that everybody is happy and healthy. The following tips can be used to help prevent spreading germs

1. Avoid close contact. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Stay home when you are sick (REMINDER: Scholars must be fever free without the assistance of anti-febrile medications for 24 hours before returning to school)
3. Cover your mouth and nose.
4. Clean your hands.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
6. Practice other good health habits.

If your scholar is sick, please remember to call the attendance line at [623-444-9934](tel:623-444-9934) (press 1) or email the attendance line [attendancesiannahills@topamail.com](mailto:attendancesiannahills@topamail.com)

---

## Connecting with our Families

**Blackboard Connect** - We have added Blackboard Connect to our communication plan at TOPA. Blackboard works with our student data system, Synergy. This new feature will allow us to pull information from the system to do quick emergency alerts or other communications more successfully. It will also inform our office about communications that are not connecting so we can update or verify phone numbers more often. During this time, please check your junk mail for messages or alerts from us.

**Facebook Updates** - If haven't looked at our Facebook page lately---Take a look! We have been adding more pictures and descriptions about what we are doing---And we are doing great things!

<https://www.facebook.com/OdysseySiennaHills/>



**The Sienna Hills SSI Team - Scholar Support Interventionists - Kelly Abraham, Cambria Odell, Felicia Fierro, and Pat Rivas.**

This team works with scholars on specific skills that a child may be lacking along with the teacher.

Scholars are identified first through benchmark testing along with classroom performance and teacher recommendations.

Our teachers also provide on-level and above-level support in their classrooms daily.



If you are here at lunch, you may notice some new faces helping our scholars with lunch and lunch recess. **Thomas Price and Adam Garcia** have joined the Sienna Hills Staff daily at lunchtime. Say “Hello” to them as they open Go-Gurts and help with 4 Square.

## Upcoming Events in January

- January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School.
- January 23 – Ambassador’s Club T-shirt Day – “What’s Your Hobby?” Wear a shirt that represents one of your hobbies for a suggested \$1 donation.
- January 23 – Culver’s Scoopie Night – 5:00-8:00 pm at the Verrado Way store. Come join Odyssey for dinner!
- January 25 – TOPA T-shirt day: Kudos, Argonaut Adventure Day, Birthday celebrations for January.
- January 25 – Ambassador’s Club Popcorn for Afternoon Snack – \$1 per bag. Orders due by 9:00. Pre-order for the rest of the year for \$5.
- January 25 – Ambassador’s Movie Night – 5:15-8:00 pm. More details soon!
- January 29 – Box Tops for Education – please send contributions to your homeroom teacher. In 2017 we received over \$600!

## A Special Thank You to all of our volunteers!

*We know that there are lots of fun things you could be doing with your time. We are so thankful that you choose to join us and help our scholars and teachers. You are truly an important part of TOPA community, and we appreciate and value you every day, just as it says in the Core values!*

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy - Sienna Hills Campus  
 2400 N. Sienna Hills Pkwy, Buckeye, AZ 85396  
 (623) 444-9934 Fax: (623) 444-9654  
 Office Hours: M-Th. 7AM-5PM

Principal: Lorrese Roer [lroer@topamail.com](mailto:lroer@topamail.com)  
 Assistant Principal: Hugh Thompson [hthompson@topamail.com](mailto:hthompson@topamail.com)  
 Office Manager: Ashley Salgado [asalgado@topamail.com](mailto:asalgado@topamail.com)  
 Attendance: [attendancesiennahills@topamail.com](mailto:attendancesiennahills@topamail.com)  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OdysseySiennaHills/>

