



Reading Rocks!



Where's Benny? Can you find Benny the Bookworm in this issue? He'll appear in every issue, but we need your help finding him! Thanks!

You're Invited!

Event: FLT Winter Party

Date: December 30, 2002

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

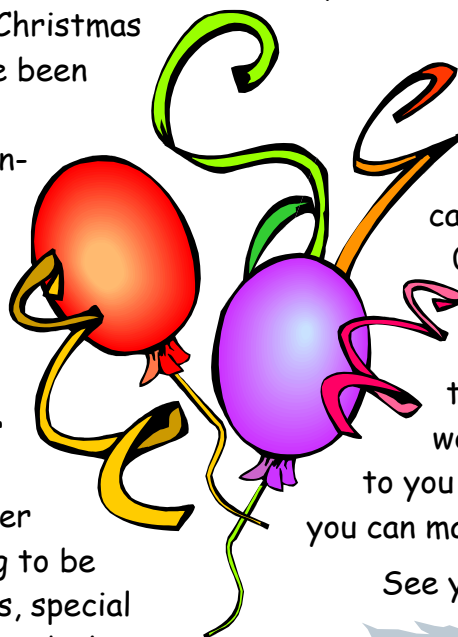
Place: Selinsgrove FLT

Selinsgrove- Families Learning Together is throwing a party and you're invited! Regular classes for the weeks of Christmas and New Year's have been cancelled to let our staff and families enjoy the holidays. But our staff here at FLT wanted to keep in touch with our FLT families over the long winter break, so we've decided to host a winter party! There's going to be face painting, snacks, special guests from the around the community who are going to read stories, games, and lots and lots of fun!

And if you're not one of our FLT families, you're still more than welcome to join us!

We'd love to meet new people and make new friends!

And if you have any talents you'd like to share with us, call us and let us know! We plan on holding a talent show for kids 2 years old to 7 years old.



Please call to let us know that you'd like to join us! You can call (570) 374-0181 and ask for either Sandra or Andrea. Either of them would love to talk to you and hear that you can make it!

See you there!



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Did You Know?



- That Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court?
- That Reindeer, Polar Bears, Penguins & many more animals live on the North Pole?
- Surfing was invented in Hawaii & that Kings & Queens surfed all the time.
- That Blue Whales are the largest animal on the planet, weighing 140,000 pounds and are 72 feet

What is Families Learning Together?

FLT is a program where children and parents can learn, grow and have fun! FLT is a program of the Union-Snyder Office of Human Resources.

Parents

- ★ GED Classes
- ★ Driver's Ed
- ★ Reading & Math Skills
- ★ Parenting Classes
- ★ Job Readiness Skills
- ★ English as a Second Language (ESL)

Kids

- ☺ Arts and Crafts
- ☺ Reading & Math Skills
- ☺ Games
- ☺ Early Childhood Education
- ☺ Homework Help

Families


- ♥ Free Meals
- ♥ Field Trips
- ♥ Parent & Child Together Time
- ♥ Support
- ♥ FUN!

Sessions are held throughout the week at the Selinsgrove Careerlink
For more information, call (570) 374-0181 and ask for any member of the FLT staff

Class Times

Mondays and Tuesdays: 11:00 to 2:30
Wednesdays: 4:00 to 7:00
Thursdays: 11:00 to 2:30 (no child classes)

Fall/ Winter Library Hours

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Selinsgrove	10:00 - 9:00	10:00 - 9:00	10:00 - 9:00	10:00 - 9:00	10:00 - 5:00	10:00 - 5:00	1:00 - 5:00
West End	1:00 - 8:00	9:30 - 4:30	CLOSED	1:00 - 8:00	9:30 - 4:30	9:00 - 4:00	CLOSED
Middleburg	1:00 - 8:30	10:00 - 8:30	1:00 - 8:30	1:00 - 8:30	1:00 - 5:00	10:00 - 1:00	CLOSED
Herr	7:00 - 9:00	11-5 & 7-9	11-5 & 7-9	11-5 & 7-9	7:00 - 9:00	10:00 - 5:00	CLOSED
Lewisburg	9:30 - 8:30	9:30 - 8:30	9:30 - 8:30	9:30 - 8:30	9:30 - 5:00	9:30 - 5:00	1:00 - 5:00
McClure	1:00 - 5:00	12:00 - 5:00	CLOSED	2:00 - 8:00	1:30 - 4:30	10:00 - 12:00	CLOSED
Beavertown	3:00 - 8:00	3:00 - 8:00	CLOSED	2:00 - 7:00	2:00 - 5:00	10:00 - 2:00	CLOSED

Christmas Hours

Beavertown, West End and Lewisburg libraries are closed Christmas & New Year's Eve.
Selinsgrove: 12-2, Middleburg 10-2, Herr 11-5, McClure 12-2 on Christmas & New Year's Eve.
All libraries are CLOSED on Christmas & New Year's Day!

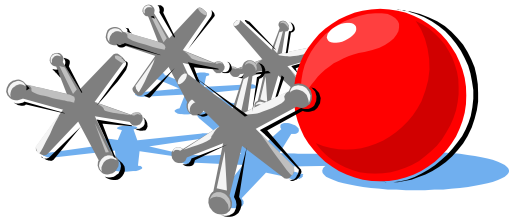
Library Phone Numbers

Selinsgrove Library (570) 374-7163
Middleburg Library (570) 837-5931
Beavertown Library (570) 658-3437
McClure Library (570) 658-7700

Herr Memorial Library (570) 966-0831
West End Library (570) 922-4773
Lewisburg Library (570) 523-1172

Great Gift Ideas

Are you scratching your head trying to come up with some good quality, affordable gifts that your kids will enjoy? Our staff came up with some great ideas to take a little stress out of your holiday season! Take a look at these nifty items:



Play Letters Desk by Fisher-Price \$12.23, for ages 3 & up. This is a great way to get kids ready for reading! Complete with letter blocks and a writing area. Available at Wal-Mart.

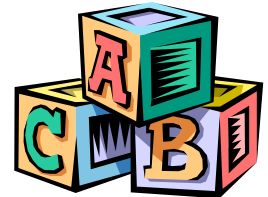
Learning Phonics by Leap Frog \$9.94, for ages 3 & up. Helps teach your child letter sounds and rhyming. Available at Wal-Mart.

K'Nex \$19.76, for ages 6-12. Complete with pieces to make a Ferris wheel, helicopter or whatever your child can think of! Available

Board Games \$8.97 to \$10.96 all ages. Classic games like Twister, Monopoly, Battleship, Operation and many more are all great games that teach hand-eye skills, taking turns and problem solving skills. Available at Wal-Mart and K-Mart.

Rub-a-Dub Scenes for the Tub \$7.99, all ages. Large foam letters stick to the tub when wet, great for little hands! Available at K-Mart.

Crayola Wonder Deluxe Set \$10.99, all ages. Great for inspiring creativity in your kids! Complete with markers and special paper.



Play-Doh Fun Factory \$5.99, for ages 4 and up. This is a classic toy that even big kids like! Squeeze play-doh through the press included to get wacky shapes!

And remember, books, puzzles, bubbles, building blocks and crayons always make great gifts that kids love!

You Did It!

FLT participant, Sharon Lash, is celebrating her birthday this month! She was born on December 12th, but we promised we wouldn't say what year it was, but we'll give you a hint: The "I'm A Believer" by the Monkees, "Paperback Writer" by the Beatles, "You Can't Hurry Love" by the Supremes and "Monday, Monday" by the Mamas & the Papas were all number one



hits that year.

If you have a recent, educational achievement that you'd like us to mention, please send a brief note to:

Andrea Pike (OHR-FLT)

713 Bridge Street, Suite 10, Selinsgrove PA 17870

Or email me at: apike@usohr.org

Don't forget to include your name, address and the goal you accomplished!

Jokes

Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

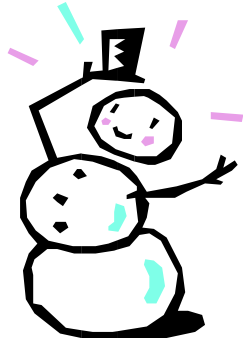
A. Frost bite!

Q. What does Mickey Mouse use when he wants to go skating?

A. Mice Skates!

Q. What kind of cereal does a snowman eat?

A. Frosted flakes!



Q. What happened when Santa's cat swallowed a ball of yarn?

A. She had mittens!



Hey kids! Submit your jokes and have them published in the next issue! Send them to: Andrea Pike c/o Families Learning Together 713 Bridge Street Selinsgrove, PA, 17870 Or email to: ampike@usohr.org

Culinary Corner

Cut-Out Cookies

You'll need:

- 2 1/4 cups of flour
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon of vanilla extract

Instructions:

1. In a large mixing bowl, mix the flour and sugar together.
2. Stir in melted butter, egg and vanilla until well blended.
3. Cover with foil or plastic wrap and put in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

4. Preheat oven to 350, and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
5. On a lightly floured surface, roll out cookie dough to 1/4 inch thick.
6. Cut out shapes using cookie cutters.
7. Place cookies on the cookie sheet and bake for 8-10 minutes.
8. Allow cookies to cool completely before decorating with icing!
9. Enjoy!



Silly Staff Stunts

Lewisburg- National Family Literacy Day was a hit! The staff of FLT showed up in costume at the Lewisburg Wal-Mart on Friday, November 1st to celebrate the event.

Games like, ring toss and bean bag toss were played, and t-shirts and toys were awarded to the winners!

FLT was there to promote the sales of the Phil Vassar CD single, "Words Are Your Wheels". For every CD that is sold by Wal-Mart nationwide, Family Literacy

Programs get part of the money.

"We got to promote literacy, and the kids had a good time playing the games" says Brenda Woland of FLT, "it was a great day!"

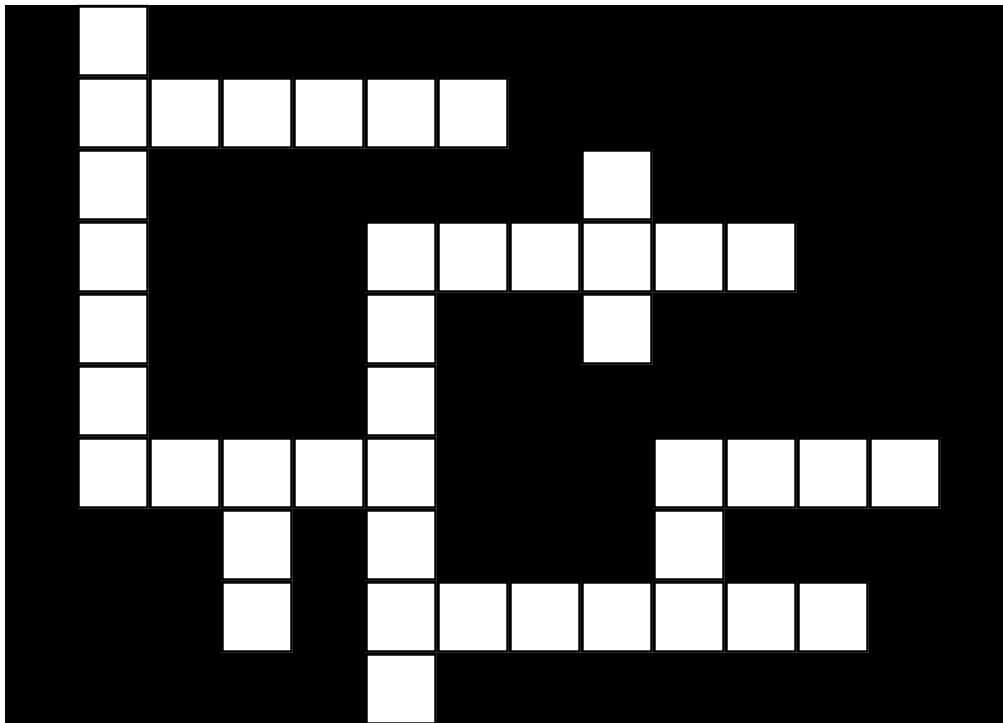
Look for the staff of FLT at more family literacy events!



Photo by Harry Adrian/OHR

From left to right: Cathy/Tin Man, Jeanne/Bad Witch, Candice/Good Witch, Lisa/Scarecrow and Brenda/Dorothy.

Crossword Puzzle



Down

1. Things you use to color in a coloring book.
2. The part of your body your hand is attached to.
3. Something that goes up in the sky, and is filled with hot air.
4. A grown up kitten.
5. When you're sleepy in the day time, you take a _____.

Across

1. An animal with long ears that likes to eat carrots.
2. A small animal with a shell that moves VERY slow.
3. A fruit that monkeys like to eat.
4. An animal that lives in the sea and has 8 arms.
5. The part of your body that holds your head up.



News from Near and Far

New Zealand- The city of Manukau (Man-oo-cow) is getting ready for its first Family Literacy Program ever. Headed by Bernadine Vester of the City of Manukau Education Trust (called by its initials, COMET), COMET plans to have two test programs up and running by March of 2003.

"We have programs for kids in schools, and we have adult literacy programs, but we have never had a program that combines the two into one Family Literacy Program."

Vester and her co-workers were inspired to create COMET after a visit from Bonnie Lash-Freeman of the National Center for Family Literacy in Louisville, Kentucky.

Members of Vester's staff have visited Family Lit Programs in California, Arizona and Kentucky to see how the programs in the U.S. are run.



The families that will attend the program will most likely be Pacific Islanders or Maori. (Mah-or-ee) Some of them will be migrant families with English as a second language.

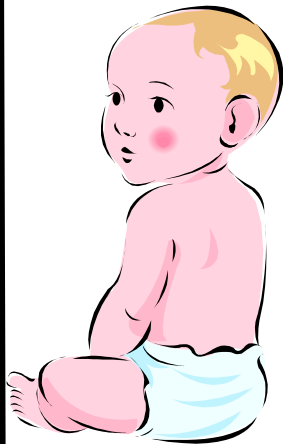
If this program does well, COMET will more than likely start up other programs like it, all around their country.

Editors here at *Reading Rocks!* would like to thank Bernadine Vester for the information she gave us about her new family literacy program. We wish you the best of luck!

Infant Massage

Source: www.childbirth.org

Did you know that people from all around the world have been doing infant massage for hundreds of years? It has so many benefits to healthy infants as well as infants who are premature, exposed to drugs while in their mother's womb, and those who had problems with motor skills.



What are benefits of infant massage?

- ♥ **Relaxes infant:** Loving touch helps calm fussy babies. It also helps with colic and digestion because it relieves gas. It also helps relieve stress in parents!
- ♥ **Promotes bonding:** Touch passes on nurturing

and love. Making eye contact with your infant helps your bond as a parent!

- ♥ **Helps with growth and development:** Studies have shown that massage promotes weight gain and a healthy immune system.
- ♥ **Improves baby's sleep:** Your infant learns to relax and let go of stress; deeper and longer sleep is usually the result!

Overall, infant massage is good for everyone. It helps you bond with your child, and gives them the comfort and security every infant deserves. Include this in your daily routine and watch your baby grow and learn! They'll thank you for it with sweet smiles, precious babbling and more nights of restful sleep, for the both of you!

Please see the pages on infant massage technique in the back of this issue for more information.

Puppies For Sale By Dan Clark

(From the book, Chicken Soup for the Soul)

A store owner was tacking a sign above his door that read "Puppies For Sale." Signs like that have a way of attracting small children, and sure enough, a little boy appeared under the store owner's sign. "How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" he asked.

The store owner replied, "Anywhere from \$30 to \$50." The little boy reached in his pocket and pulled out some change.

"I have \$2.37," he said. "Can I please look at them?" The store owner smiled and whistled and out of the kennel came Lady, who ran down the aisle of his store followed by five teeny tiny balls of fur. One puppy was lagging considerably behind.

Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging limping puppy and said, "What's wrong with that little dog?"

The store owner explained that the veterinarian had examined the little puppy and had discovered it didn't have a hip socket. It would always limp. It would always be lame.

The little boy became excited. "That's the little puppy that I want to buy."

The store owner said, "No, you don't want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I'll just give him to you."

The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner's eyes, pointing his finger and said, "I don't want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs and I'll pay full price. In fact I'll give

you \$2.37 now, and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for.

The store owner countered, "You really don't want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to jump and play with you like the other puppies."

To this, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the store owner and softly replied, "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!"



Make A Difference!

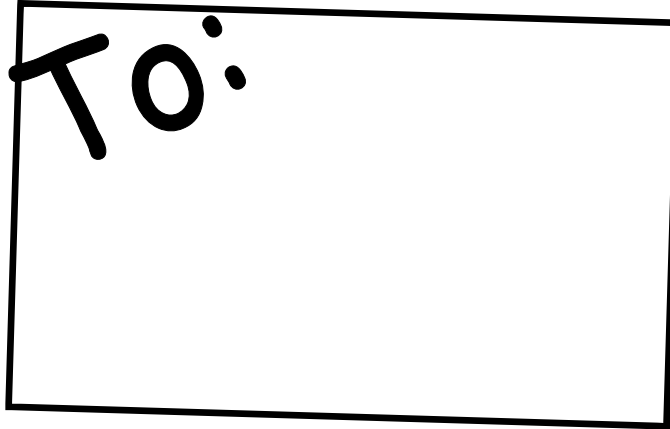
Think about how many times we've all been like the shop keeper. Just because someone isn't strong or perfect, doesn't mean they can't be important! The composer Beethoven was deaf, physicist Stephen Hawking has ALS (a neuron disease), musician Stevie Wonder is blind, and the former Miss America, Heather Whitestone McCallum is deaf. All of these people have given something great to this world! Don't underestimate something just because it's not perfect!

Families Learning Together

713 Bridge Street
Suite 10
Selinsgrove PA 17870

Phone: (570) 374-0181
(570)522-1397

And remember, "Parents are their children's first and most important teachers!"



Families Learning Together is a program of the Union-Snyder Office of Human Resources, a Community Action Agency. This newsletter is made possible through grants from the Pa. Departments of Education and Community and Economic Development, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

What's Coming Up In Our Next Issue...

- ❄️ **Internet 101:** Internet safety and information for you and your family!
- ❄️ **An ethnic culinary treat!** Healthy stir fry in minutes!
- ❄️ **Aloha!** Greetings from a family literacy program in Hawaii.
- ❄️ **TV Time is back!** We highlight a classic show that your kids watch, that you might have watched when you were their age!



Vocabulary

Combine- To mix, make a lot of things into one thing. *Example:* Joe and Chelsea combined their ideas and came up with one great idea.

Promote- To go up in rank or to advertise. *Example:* Brushing your teeth promotes good dental health.

Demonstrate- To show something clearly, to example something. *Example:* The art teacher demonstrated to her class how to paint a picture.