



Clark County School District

**Your
PTA Newsletter!**

Gilbert Magnet School for Communication and Creative Arts

2101 W. Cartier Avenue, North Las Vegas, NV 89032-3699
702-799-4730

Letter from the President

Greetings, Fellow Giraffe Parents!

Happy New Year!!!! I trust that all our families had safe and fun-filled holidays. Now we are back to our wonderful school with lots more in store as we round off this year's activities.

We had a great Matinee with lots of terrific performances. The 4th and 5th grade classes presented a fantastic show. I hope most of you got the chance to see it. The concession stand and flower sales went marvelously. Along with cookie dough and gift card sales, we seem to be comfortably placed financially for our upcoming events. I thank each and every one of you that helped make our plans, past and future, possible.

The Reflections program provides an opportunity for your child to receive recognition for their creativity. We have lots of participants this year and I look forward to seeing the results of the judging. The awards presentation will be in February. That month will also feature Recycled Readables, which seems to grow every year, and Caught You Reading comes along in March. Volunteers for all programs are always welcome.

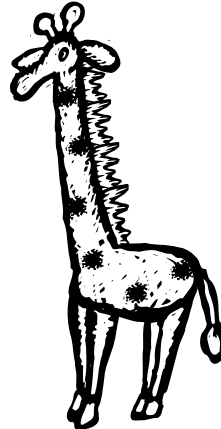
As always, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

E-mail: lenox4@cox.net, Cell: 702-308-7274.

Yours,

Janet Lenox

PTA President and "killer" chili dog maker.....



WELCOME BACK FROM WINTER BREAK!

We hope everyone in the Gilbert family had a warm and fulfilling two weeks off. Happy 2009!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reflections entries due
January 9

**Recycled Readables
COLLECTION**
February 6 - February 26

**Recycled Readables
DAY**
February 27

**"CAUGHT YOU READING"
WEEK**
March 2 to March 6

FAMILY MATH NIGHT
March 26

For more information please watch for flyers in your child's backpack or visit the Gilbert PTA website...
www.gilbertpta.org.

Anyone can join PTA at anytime. Please get involved!

Reading Help: Beyond “Sounding It Out”

From the National PTA Magazine

Decoding words can be one of the biggest challenges a child faces when learning to read. Schools teach a wide range of ways to help children decode words, some of which you can use at home.

Take a picture walk. Before you and your child sit down with a new book, particularly one that you intend to read together, take a picture walk. Read the title and author to your child, and then go through the book page by page; decide what’s happening on each based on the pictures. This exercise will help orient your child to the story and give him or her some sense of what words to look for while reading.

Skip and return. Let’s say that your child is stuck on the word “brown” in the sentence “The brown dog is chasing after the bouncing ball.” Prompt him or her to skip the hard word, finish the sentence, and then take another shot at the unknown word. Because of the way the sentence is written, your child should know that the word missing is an adjective. A scan of the picture will provide your child with a clue as to what the word might be. Then your child can make a connection between the written word “brown” and the spoken word “brown.”

Use what you know. Let’s pretend that your child is having trouble with the word “chasing” in the sentence, “The brown dog is chasing after the bouncing ball.” He or she looks to the picture and reads “chasing” as “runs”—a perfectly logical guess. You can then say something like “I noticed you had some trouble with this word, and then you said ‘runs’ . Let’s take a look at the word together and see if we can figure out what the author used there instead of ‘runs’?” Then help your child look at the first letter, the last letter, or any known combination of letters in the words to help him or her reach the right answer. This is a low pressure way to offer some help. If your child still struggles, say the word and move on.

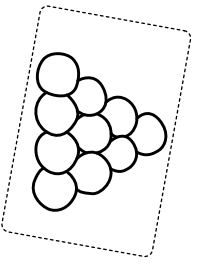
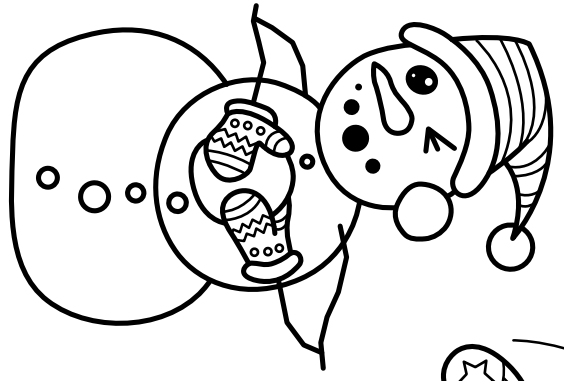
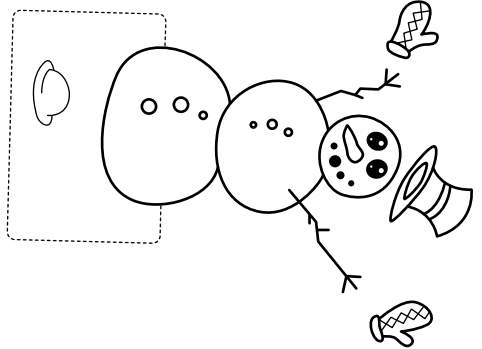
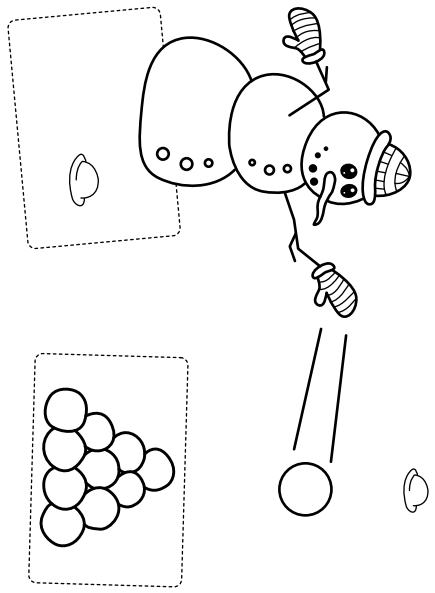
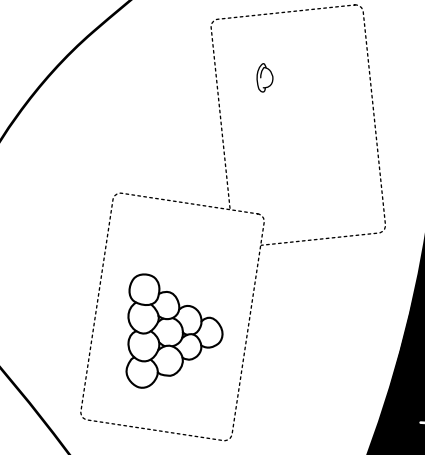
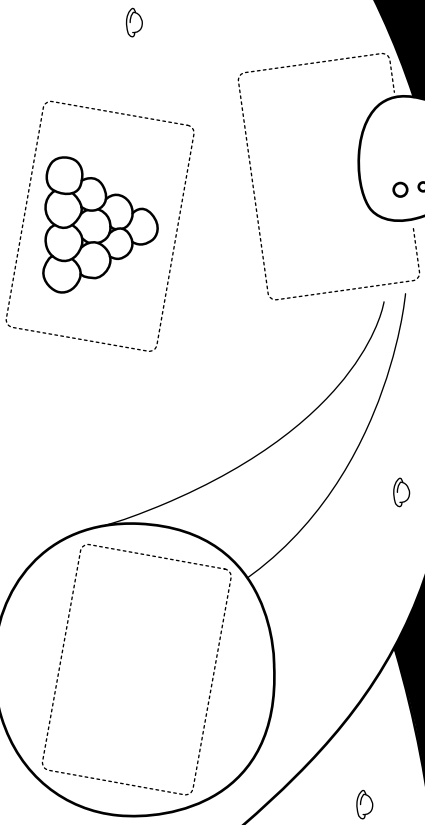
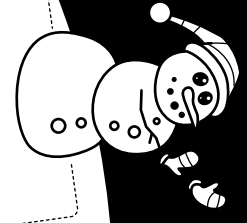
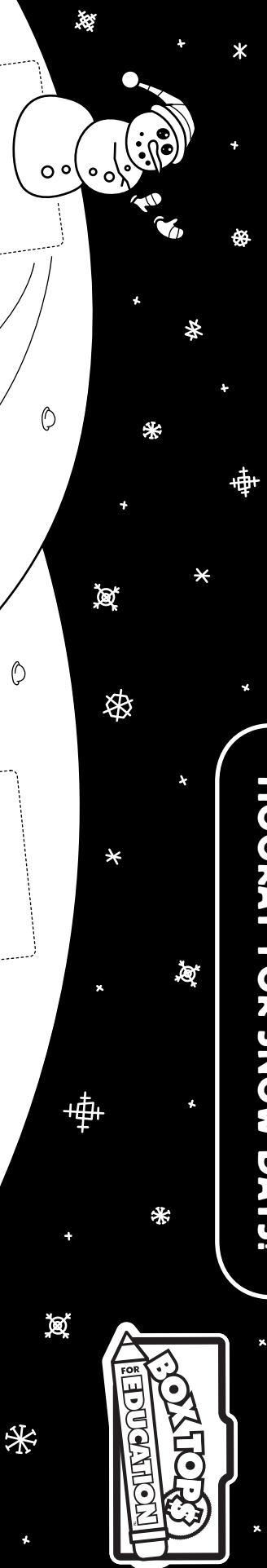
Employing all or some combination of these strategies when you’re reading with your children may be the boost they need to go from frustrated readers to confident ones.

Article by Jenny Rich, a licensed reading specialist who worked as a teacher in the New York City public schools. She is now a stay-at-home mom and the editor of the children’s literacy website www.ethansbookshelf.com.

HELP GILBERT MAGNET SCHOOL RAISE MONEY - JUST BY SHOPPING AT ALBERTSONS & TARGET

Albertsons will donate up to 4% of your Albertsons Preferred Savings Card eligible purchases to our school. Also, use your Target Red Card or Target Visa and request that a percentage of your purchases go to Gilbert Magnet School. Details online at gilbertpta.org, albertsons.com, target.com and easy to set up when you ask at the store!

HOORAY FOR SNOW DAYS!



Paste in a flurry of Box Tops and earn cash for your school!

NAME _____
GRADE _____
TEACHER'S NAME _____