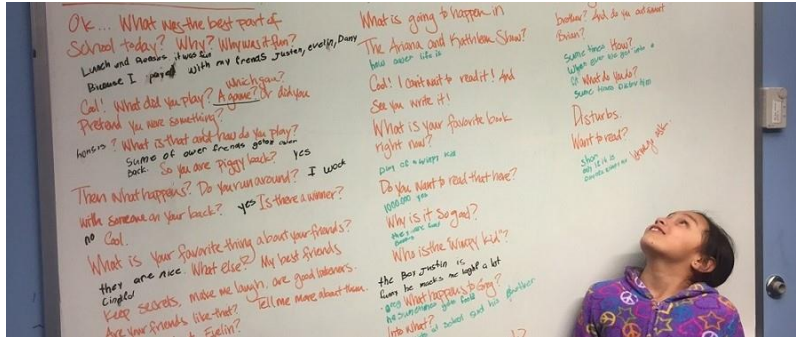


# Teton Literacy Center Family Newsletter

Feb. 2016



Changing Lives Through the  
Power of Literacy.

Dear Families,

Thank you for a great start to 2016! Our winter clubs are in full swing and students are participating in literacy activities through a range of fun themes, including energy exploration, around the world, dinosaurs, superheroes, and jewelry design. As always, if there is a question or topic that you have been wondering about, please email us. We are happy to follow up with you about it, and if we don't have the answer, we're happy to do some research.

Sincerely,  
Adam Seery, Jade Bowden, Krista Hollis, Kristin Livingstone

## Upcoming Events

### No Programs-President's Day

**February 15th**  
TLC will not have programs on President's Day! Have a wonderful holiday!

### Around the World Event

**March 3rd, 5:30-7pm at TLC**  
TLC and our enrichment program will be hosting an Around the World Family Event! Each room will be turned into a different country from around the world with a literacy challenge for students and families. Kids and parents participate together, so bring the whole family. And tell your friends-this event is open to the community!

### How is Your Child Doing?

#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

As you talk with your child's teachers during conferences, include Teton Literacy staff in the process. We are here to support you and your child. We are happy to share more about what we are seeing in afterschool time. We also want to make sure that we are offering the support your child

## Learning is Fun!

We are all learning all the time- words, gestures, rules, how to act in social situations, etc. We learn how to take in information, problem solve, follow directions, speak up and voice our own opinions, and work through frustrations. Learning isn't just from books or school. We can target these types of important skills with games. Playing games at home can help our children be more successful in school (and in life)! Many educators, doctors, and researchers agree that games are incredibly valuable to your child's development. There is consensus that regular face-to-face time with a parent/guardian is critical as well. Combine these two needs into literacy games as a family. While game nights are fun, you don't always need to go this route.

Finding shared time in your family's busy schedule can be challenging. Remember that games can be used as filler when you're not sure how to engage your child next. Waiting at the dentist's office? Trying to cook and your children won't stop asking you when dinner's ready? Early release day? Play a learning game together! See the game below as a suggestion for a game-on-the-go that can fit in your purse or pocket.



## Game to Play: Masterpiece

**Strengthen learning styles.** In school, students are expected to learn in a variety of ways- by listening (auditory), seeing (visual), and doing (kinesthetic). We all have specific learning styles that are easier for us than other types. This game is a fun way to practice using these different learning styles.

**Materials You Need:** paper, pencil, a picture that one partner hasn't seen, markers (optional)

### How to Play:

1. Sit back to back with your partner.
2. Partner 1 has a 'masterpiece' (a picture) but doesn't show it to partner 2. Partner 1 describes the picture to partner 2 in as much detail as possible.
3. Partner 2 draws the picture in as much detail as possible only by listening, **without looking at the picture**, asking questions about details when needed.
4. When time runs out or you are finished, compare partner 2's picture to the masterpiece!



After playing, ask questions that promote reflection. "What was easy about this?" "What should we do differently next time?"

needs and that we are building on the skills they are developing at school.

Bring a copy of a progress report from school to your child's Teton Literacy staff member, and we will use that information to better support your child. Teachers at school and at Teton Literacy will be happy to give you tips on what you can do at home to develop your child's skills. As your child gets older, we encourage you to have your child be an active part of these as well. Kids of all ages can benefit. Before or after conferences, ask them to reflect on their progress at school.

Sample questions to ask your child:

- What are you doing well in school?
- What is most difficult for you?
- What do you want to get better at?
- What is something you really liked learning about so far this year? Why?

A general "Tell me more about that" can encourage your child to develop an answer that is only a short phrase.

Check out our [blog](#) for more ways to get the most out of conferences.