

March 26, 2013

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*“If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it.” - Margaret Fuller*

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# Parent Page

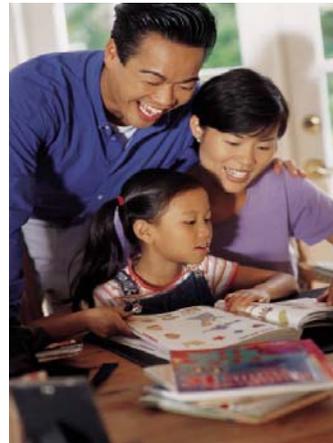


## BASCS Values Literacy

In the context of education, we must never forget that literacy is a freedom – a right - that plays a most important role in the education of each and every child. U.S. Secretary of Education, Mr. Arne Duncan, recently stated that, “Literacy is the key to higher learning and a window to the world.”

At BASCS, our focus this year is to increase literacy across the curriculum so that all of our students are empowered with the proper preparation for success.

As part of this endeavor, the BASCS Literacy Corner can be found every month in our online newsletter, blog, Twitter and website.



It is our job, as educators, to ensure that true learning is achieved by the students... However, never forget how important it is for parents to communicate, support and reinforce learning at home.

As we move forward this school year, we look forward to working with you to improve the literacy skills of all of our students so that they will thrive in all subject areas, demonstrating true BASCS Pride!

## Literacy is Key

According to the National Endowment for the Arts report “To Read or Not to Read,” the percentage of 17-year olds who read NOTHING at all for pleasure has doubled over a 20-year period. Yet, the amount they read for school or homework (15 or fewer pages daily for 62% of students) has stayed the same. This report, corroborated by

“Adult Literacy in America”, a report from the National Center for Educational Statistics should alert all parents as other studies have shown direct links between low literacy in youth and high participation in criminal activity. **Suggestion:** Modeling good reading habits is a great way to encourage your teen to read. Some helpful tips to modeling good reading habits: 1)

Keep reading materials in convenient places; 2) Visit libraries and bookstores regularly; 3) Volunteer to read in the community; 4) Read together with your teen and; 5) Make sure your teen sees you reading every day.





Visit

[www.begintoread.com](http://www.begintoread.com)  
to find out more  
information about  
literacy.

**BASCS Staff Support:**

Mr. Ersoy, Director  
Mrs. Gillison, Guidance  
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Mr. Cieslik, HS Social  
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## Literacy Statistics

The following information was gathered from the Begin to Read website.

National Assessment of Adult Literacy defines literacy as “using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one’s goals and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.

- 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. The 4th grade is the watershed year. We can predict that if a child is not reading proficiently in the 4th grade, he or she will have approximately a 78% chance of not catching up.
- According to UNICEF, “Nearly a billion people will

enter the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names and 2/3 of them are women.”

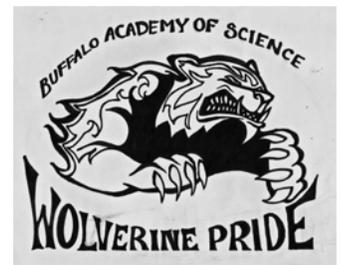
- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.
- More than 60% of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate.
- Penal institution records show that inmates have a 16% chance of returning to prison if they have literacy help, as opposed to 70% who receive no help. This equates to taxpayer costs of \$25,000 per year per inmate and nearly double that amount for juvenile offenders.
- Over 70% of inmates in America’s prisons cannot

read above a 4th grade level.

- Literacy is learned; illiteracy is passed along by parents who cannot read or write.
- One child in four grows up not knowing how to read.
- 43% of adults at the lowest literacy level live in poverty compared to only 4% of those at the highest level.
- 16-19 year old girls at the poverty level and below, with below average skills, are 6x more likely to have children out-of-wedlock than their reading counterparts.
- Low literacy costs \$73 million per year in terms of direct health care costs.



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## Parent Resources

Finding new recipes for old favorites can be as simple as going online and “Googling”. However, do not be afraid to experiment and substitute your time-honored recipes with new, healthier alternatives.

Also, never be afraid to try something new. Here’s a simple recipe for a healthy smoothie that is refreshing

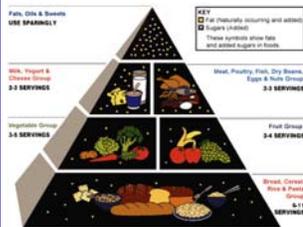
and delicious!

**BERRY BERRY LEMON**

- 1 c Frozen Blueberries
- 1 c Frozen Strawberries
- 1 c Yogurt (any flavor)
- 2 c Fruit Juice (any flavor)
- 1/4 c Lemonade Powder Mix
- Ice

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Place all items in blender and blend until smooth. Pour into a tall glass and enjoy!



Visit

[www.snackgirl.com](http://www.snackgirl.com)  
for more  
healthy recipes...