



## Spellbinding Stories at the Library

When was the last time you sat spellbound listening to a great story? What memories do you have of hearing your parents or caregivers share with you a story from their childhood? How was your imagination sparked in the days before Tivo, 3-D movies and Wii gaming?

If you've ever loved listening to a great story or if you've ever imagined enthralling a live audience with stories of your own, then Spellbinders is the place for you!

The Longmont Chapter of Spellbinders, an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing the joys of intergenerational storytelling, is looking for new members of all ages. Whether you have experience as a storyteller or you're new to the idea, we have training and support that will fill your Once Upon a Time's with Happily Ever After's!

Oral storytelling is a powerful and timeless art; one that enriches lives and builds strong communities. As expressed by educator Eileen Burke, "Stories and story sharing are eons old. When traditional tales are shared with young children, the heritage of centuries becomes part of their lives, for, despite the variety and number of tellings, the core of stories has remained intact."

Here in Longmont, our Chapter focuses mainly on Spellbinding performances for elementary-aged school children, although we're more than happy to bring our storytelling to other audiences. For us, we want our storytelling experiences to be as valuable for our listeners as our tellers and thus we try to organize a partnership with schools whereby a storyteller can visit a class on a regular basis and develop a rapport with

the audience. Also, since storytelling and literacy are interlinked, we enjoy being an integral part of early literacy opportunities for our Longmont youth.

If you're interested in learning more about the Longmont Chapter of Spellbinders, please email Elektra Greer at [Elektra.greer@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:Elektra.greer@ci.longmont.co.us)

The story has come to an end. Let out the rooster and lock up the hens!

Join us for the next Spellbinders Live Storytelling event on Saturday, December 4th from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Gingerbread Houses and a Special Laura's Little House Christmas Memories storytelling event." from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Make a whole afternoon of it, or just come for the craft or storytelling!

Grahamcracker Gingerbread House Making will be going on between 2-4:30p. Our Special Storytelling will occur between 3-4p.

Please call the library at 303-651-8477 to reserve your spot for this fun, free, family day.



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### Upcoming Learning Opportunities

#### Día de los Muertos Family Celebration

Longmont Museum  
Saturday, October 30  
[www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum](http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum)  
303-651-8374

#### Small Business Support Workshops

Longmont Public Library  
First Tuesdays, 6:30 p- 8:00 p  
[www.ci.longmont.co.us/library/SmallBusinessSupportWorkshops.htm](http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/library/SmallBusinessSupportWorkshops.htm)  
303-359-1295

#### Fall Harvest Sandstone Ranch

Saturday, November 13, 2010  
303-774-4692

### We're Interested in Hearing From You

Let us know how you're able to spread positive lifelong learning information in your community. As a way to inspire your fellow Learning Ambassadors, we'll include results and your good ideas in upcoming issues! Send your experience and results to Karen Roney at [karen.roney@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:karen.roney@ci.longmont.co.us), or call 303-651-8633.



## 10 Great Study Habits

Based on an article by Grace Fleming, About.com Guide  
<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/studymethods/tp/studyhabits.htm>  
September 8, 2010

It is never too late to develop great study habits.

### 1. Write Down Every Assignment

You could write them down in a planner, keep a to-do list in a notebook or use the note pad feature on your cell phone. It doesn't matter what you use; it matters that you do it. Be sure to include the date the assignment is due.

### 2. Remember to Bring Your Homework to School

The last thing you want is an F for Forgetting. Make a home for your homework. It could be a place or even a colored folder, but always put your completed assignments in the same place.

### 3. Communicate With Your Teacher

Clear communication is the key to every successful relationship and school is no exception. Be sure that you understand every assignment. How terrible to fail an assignment because you did not understand the difference between an expository essay and a personal essay. Ask questions, teachers love questions. The more you ask the better prepared you will be.

### 4. Organize With Color

Devise your own color-coding system to keep your assignments and your thoughts organized. You may select a single color for each class (like science or history) and use that color for your folder, your highlighters, your sticky notes, and your pens. You'll be

surprised to discover how much strong organization skills can change your life!



### 5. Establish a Study Zone at Home

Take into account your individual style and your real needs and plan for the perfect study place. Everyone is different. Some need complete quiet with no interruptions when they study, but others actually study better listening to quiet music or taking several breaks. Be sure to stock your study space with school supplies to help avoid last minute emergencies.

### 6. Prepare Yourself for Test Days

Besides studying the material there are other things you can do to improve your test scores. Wear layers of clothes, being too hot or too cold can distract you from the test. Eat a good meal (or something) for breakfast or lunch. Bring a watch and be mindful of the time – don't spend all your time on one essay question and miss out on the rest of the test.

### 7. Know Your Dominant Learning Style

Spend some time to consider how you learn the best and study in a way that matches your brain style. Auditory learners are those who learn best through hearing things. Visual learners

retain more information when they use visual aids, and tactile learners benefit by doing hands-on projects. Then there are kinesthetic learners who do best moving while they learn (jump up and down on a mini tramp while reciting your spelling words). Spend some time to consider how you learn the best and study in a way that matches your brain style.

### 8. Take Fabulous Notes

Listen for certain code words that your teacher uses to indicate that this is key point in the lecture. Take notes while you read and look for summary paragraphs or the highlighted headings.

### 9. Conquer Procrastination

Even when that little voice tells you it would be more fun to play a game, eat, or watch TV, don't fall for it. If you put things off too long you may run out of time. You take the chance that nothing will go wrong at the last minute -- In the real world, things do go wrong.

### 10. Take Care of Yourself

Some of your personal habits might be affecting your grades. Are you feeling tired, achy, or bored when it comes to homework time? Change the way you feel by taking better care of your mind and your body. Stretch when you need to, eat good for you food, and sleep. For example, with the increase in text messaging, Sony PlayStations, Xbox, Internet surfing, and computer writing, students are using their hand muscles in all new ways, and they're growing increasingly susceptible to the hazards of repetitive stress injury. Find out how to avoid pain in your hands and neck by changing the way you sit at your computer.

## Helping Your Child Learn Science

*Excerpts from Helping Your Child Series  
provided by U.S. Department of Education*

Children ask their parents hundreds of questions such as "Why is the sky blue?" and "What makes sound possible?" Curiosity is natural for children, but they need help making sense of what they see and relating observations to their existing knowledge. Parents can help their children turn curiosity into an understanding of science by encouraging their children to ask questions, make predictions, and explore in a safe environment. This support helps children become successful students and scientific thinkers.

Today's children are growing up in an increasingly technological society that requires far more advanced instruction in science and technology than their parents received. The good news is that parents do not have to be scientists or have college degrees to help their children learn science. It is far more important for parents to nurture their children's natural curiosity and take time to observe and learn together.

### Activity (kindergarten-first grade)

Children learn by doing. They try new ideas and challenge old ones. But learning does not just happen in school. You can help your child learn by providing him or her with safe, interesting learning experiences in a supportive atmosphere. Below is an example of such an activity.

#### Float or sink?

Learning to make and test predictions is a good first step toward formulating and testing hypotheses.

#### What you need:

- Block of solid wood,
- Plastic bottle cap,
- Two pieces of heavy-duty aluminum foil,
- Sink filled with water.

#### What to do:

- Tell your child to hold the wooden block in

one hand and the plastic cap in the other hand. Ask him or her to answer the following questions:

1. Which item feels heavier?
2. Do you think the wooden block will float or sink? How about the plastic cap?

- Have your child test his or her predictions by placing the wooden block and cap on the water. What happens? Next, have your child hold both items under water and gently release them. What happens now?

- Give your child a piece of aluminum foil. Tell your child to squeeze it into a ball and drop it in the water. Does it float or sink? Give your child another piece of foil. Help him or her shape it into a boat. Have your child carefully place it on top of the water. Does the foil float now?

The foil ball sinks because it is squeezed into a small shape and only a small amount of water is trying to hold up its weight. When the foil is spread out, it floats because the weight is supported by a lot more water.

### Tips for working with teachers and schools

- Visit your child's school. During your visit, look for clues as to whether the school values science. Do you see science learning centers or displays? Are there plants, aquariums, or collections (of rocks or insects, for example) in the classrooms?
- Find out about the school's science curriculum. Ask for a school handbook. If none is available, meet with the school's principal and ask questions such as the following: What methods and materials does the school use for science instruction? Are the science teachers highly qualified? Are activities available that parents may use at home to support instruction?
- Meet with your child's teacher. Schedule an appointment and ask how your child approaches science. Does he or she understand assignments and do them accurately? If the teacher indicates that

your child has problems with science, ask for specific things that you can do to help your child improve.

- Find out if the school has a Web site and, if so, get the address. School Web sites can provide you with access to all kinds of information, including homework assignments, class schedules, lesson plans, and test dates.
- Get actively involved. Attend parent-teacher meetings. If you are unable to attend, ask school staff to mail you notes from the meetings. You also may request that school staff post minutes and other handouts from the meetings on the school's Web site. If your schedule permits, volunteer to help with the science program.

### More Information

The *Helping Your Child* publication series aims to provide parents with the tools and information necessary to help their children succeed in school and life. These booklets are provided in English and Spanish and feature practical lessons and activities to help school aged and preschool children master reading, understand the value of homework and develop the skills and values necessary to achieve and grow. For the complete series you can visit the website at [www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html](http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html).





## Opportunities for Learning at the Longmont Library

### Storytimes

Weekly storytimes for children from birth through age 6. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The first session begins at 10:15a and the second session at 11:00a. These interactive storytimes will include stories, songs, movement and rhyme.

Bedtime Storytime for all ages. Thursday evenings at 7:00 – 7:30p. Wear pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal to add to the fun.

### Events

Not so Spooky Thrills and Chills craft time. Saturday, October 30 after the Downtown Costume Parade and Trick or Treat Street. From 10:30a – noon. "Haunted Storytime" from 11:00a-11:30, best for ages 7 and under. Come in costume for a special treat!

Family Gaming Day, Saturday, November 13 2:00-4:00p. Drop in anytime during the afternoon and enjoy a variety of board games and family games. Pictionary at 3p! No RSVP necessary.

Holiday Film Storytime Mornings, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 22 and 23 from 10:15a – noon, drop in and watch your favorite stories – featuring Reading Rainbow books.

Pawsitive Reading. Monday, November 1 and December 6 from 6:30-7:30p. Children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to read to specially trained reading assistance dogs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Drop in any time.

Dogs Enjoy Afternoon Reading, Saturday, November 20 and December 18 from 1:00-2:00p. Children of all ages are invited to read to trained Reading Education Assistance

Dogs. These dogs are certified and insured through the Delta Society. Drop in, no registration required.

Holiday Crafts, Monday, Dec 20 and 27 from 1 – 3p, best for ages 2-8, drop in. Younger children will require help from parents.

Star Wars Sunday (the first Sunday of each month from 2:00-4:00p) Star Wars Trivia game, movie clips, and Jedi Knight fun. For ages 6-12. Pre-registration required (phone 303-651-8477 or stop at the Children/Teen Desk).

Lego Club! (the last Sunday of each month from 2:00-4:00p). Complete a building challenge and display your creations at the Library. For all ages, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required (phone 303-651-8477 or stop at the Children/Teen Desk).



### For adults...

#### Small Business Workshops

- WordPress - Quick & Easy Websites: An Introduction to WordPress  
November 2, 6:30-8:00p
- An Overview of QuickBooks: How QuickBooks can help your business  
December 7, 6:30-8:00p

#### Book Discussion Groups – read the book drop in to a group...

- *The Blind Side* - November 24, 2:00p
- *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*  
November 8, 7:00p
- *Shanghai Girls* - November 29, 7:00p

#### CU at the Library Lectures

November 4, 7:00-8:00p  
*Weird, Wild Colorado: Life Forms that May Surprise You from Forest, Field, Tundra, and Bloodstream*

Jennifer Frazer, AAAS Science Journalism Award-winning science writer and blogger presents: Have you ever found something in the forest that made you unsure what food group it might fit into? Ever wondered exactly what a slime mold is, or why you shouldn't drink stream water unfiltered, or what makes the melting mountain snow banks pink? This short but well-illustrated lecture will cover a few of Colorado's more colorful non-human characters and their "alternative lifestyles."

#### Great Ideas Reading and Discussion Group (Tuesdays from 7:00-8:45 p.m)

- The Idea of Will- November 2
- Will: Free Choice - November 16

For more information and reading assignments visit the Library's website at <http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/Library/adult/GreatIdeasDiscussionGroups.htm>

## About LifeLongmontLearning

LifeLongmontLearning is a community-based, City-sponsored movement to increase access to learning opportunities available in our area. It is the vision of this effort's leadership—which represents government, education, community and business—to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn; for all students to acquire the education and skills to be successful in the 21st century; for all working adults to improve their employability in a changing world; and for retired adults to continually enrich their lives. For more information, visit [www.LifeLongmontLearning.com](http://www.LifeLongmontLearning.com).