

Early Literacy Matters!

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Monthly Newsletter | December 2019

The goal of the monthly newsletter is to provide information and resources that will help children in our region meet the critical benchmark of reading at grade-level by the start of fourth grade. Please spread the word and share with anyone you know that is invested in helping children learn while developing a joy of reading.

In this issue, you will learn about the importance of avoiding the "Winter Slump", a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) on NBC, and resources that are available in Hartford and New Britain.



Attendance Matters - During the Winter!

Watch Out for the Winter Slump!

Too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation. Please be mindful of the following school schedules:

Hartford Public Schools' Winter Break is Monday, December 23, 2019 – Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Students are expected back at school on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

For more information, please visit: www.hartfordschools.org/attendance_matters

Consolidated School District of New Britain Winter Break is Monday, December 23, 2019 – Friday, January 3, 2020.

Students are expected back at school on Monday, January 6, 2020.

For more information, please visit: www.csdnb.org

CREC Schools' Winter Break is Monday, December 23, 2019 – Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Students are expected back at school on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

For more information, please visit: www.crecschools.org

Great News!



In New Britain – Attendance is improving in the Consolidated School District of New Britain (CSDNB) through the first 40 days of the school year. This year, the "Every Day Matters" Campaign has focused on celebrating every day attendance and raising awareness of the importance of every day in a student's education, with the overarching goal of reducing chronic absenteeism throughout the school district.

Chronic absenteeism has decreased by 4.34 percent overall from the same time last school year, according to data from CSDNB's "40 Day Attendance Report." For returning grade cohorts, chronic absenteeism has decreased 4.56 percent.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.csdnb.org/>

Make Every Day Count, Presented by United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut has partnered with NBC and Telemundo Connecticut for a custom campaign to raise awareness around United Way's vision – a community where opportunities are available for every child to succeed in school and for every family to achieve financial security. The PSAs below highlight Campaign for Grade-Level Reading strategies including promoting early learning and school readiness, consistent school attendance and preventing summer learning loss.

Watch:

- [Make Every Day Count – Promo 1 \(English\)](#)
- [Make Every Day Count – Promo 2 \(English\)](#)
- [Make Every Day Count – Promo 1 \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Make Every Day Count – Promo 2 \(Spanish\)](#)

The Importance of Social and Emotional Learning: Setting a Strong Foundation

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is defined as the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The development of these skills begins early in life and are modeled and taught at home and community settings. New Britain's preschool providers are building their capacity to foster and develop more intentional SEL practices into their approach through RULER (Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating emotion). RULER is an evidence-based approach for integrating social and emotional learning into schools, developed at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. RULER applies "hard science" to the teaching of what have historically been called "soft skills." When kids are on track developmentally, the more prepared they are to learn. Keep up the great work! For more information, please visit: <http://ei.yale.edu/ruler/ruler-overview/>

To learn more about SEL and get involved click here: <https://sel4ct.org/>



Resources

TALKING IS TEACHING



CONTENT BUNDLES BY **SMALL TO FAIL**

Fun and engaging parent/provider resources based on child-friendly themes

- [Attendance Works](#)
- [Grade-Level Reading](#)
- [Hartford Public Library](#)
- [Hartford Public Schools Welcome Center](#)
- [New Britain Public Library](#)
- [Too Small to Fail](#)
- [United Way 2-1-1](#)

To learn more or share ideas for future newsletters, contact Latonia Tabb, Senior Manager, Education Initiatives, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut at 860-493-1128 or ltabb@unitedwayinc.org.

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With support from individuals, workplaces and grants, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut has provided resources – including financial contributions and volunteers – to local community-based organizations since 1924. We mobilize the people and the resources needed to support programs and initiatives that create lasting solutions for the complex issues facing children and families in the region; such as the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR).

The Coalition for New Britain's Youth is a citywide collaborative committed to improving the lives of New Britain's youth, birth through age 24, and working to ensure they have what they need to be successful in school, career, and life.

Nationally the CGLR is a partnership between schools, municipalities, businesses and community organizations to rally behind a coordinated effort to ensure all youth are reading on grade level by the end of third grade, a critical milestone and predictor of on-time high school graduation.

The Fund

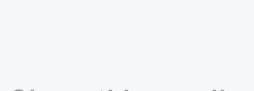
FOR GREATER HARTFORD

A special thanks to The Fund for Greater Hartford for their investment that supports the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's communications plan!



United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

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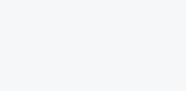
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