

Academic Anchor

Volume 2, Issue 1



**NS Mayport
Welcomes
Secondary
Principals**

**Region Celebrates
Month of the
Military Child**

**NAS/JRB
FORT WORTH
HOSTS AIR
SHOW**

**And
so much
more...**



Jesmarie Mercado shows her "True Colors" during Month of the Military Child celebration.



Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

NS Mayport Welcomes Principals

Written By: Judy Cromartie,
NS Mayport SLO

On Tuesday, April 19, 2011, NS Mayport hosted a group of Duval County Public School principals at a Principals' Educational Military Resources Expo. Installation organizations and community partners who serve military families and their children joined School Liaison Officer (SLO) Judy Cromartie to present their programs to these educational administrators.

For the past year and a half principals, school counselors, child psychologists, and social workers have inquired with the SLO about the types of assistance or program supports available in the military community. These administrators and school staff often communicated what had been provided via the school system to assist a military child, but would ask what additional services were available on the installation. In response to these inquiries and to address this informational need, the SLO organized and hosted the Principals' Educational Military Resources Expo.

Organizations were given three minutes to share with the entire group about how they interact and help military families. Booths were set up by each organization to allow principals to visit the presenters, to explore materials, and to ask questions about the entire range of services these organizations provide.

The expo was a hit! Some educators remarked, "I didn't know that service was available. I will certainly use this in the future." Another replied, "With the economic crunch the schools are in, I am definitely going to tell my counselors about the counseling available at Fleet and Family." And most encouraging were the comments requesting that the SLO share this information with other school counselors and elementary principals. The Expo included the following organizations:

- Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Child and Youth Programs
- American Red Cross
- Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC)
- 4-H Operation Military Kid (OMK)
- Balfour-Beatty Housing Services
- Mayport Middle and Elementary Coastal Science Magnet programs
- Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC)
- Military OneSource
- Navy Marine Corps Relief
- Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR)
- Tutor.com
- USO



As a result of the success of this initial expo, the SLO is making plans to host similar presentations for other faculty, staff, and administrators around the district. Acting as the communications link between the installation and the local education agency, the SLO is able to support the needs of military school-age children and their families. These close ties between the school district and military support agencies mean that comprehensive services can be provided to meet all the needs of the military community.

Photo: December James of Operation: Military Kids addresses Duval secondary principals.



Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

NAS Kingsville SLO Honored

Written By: Jeanie Alexander,
NAS Kingsville SLO



Photo: Jeanie Alexander,
School Liaison Officer,
NAS Kingsville

Jeanie Alexander has been serving as NAS Kingsville School Liaison Officer since July 2009. Before taking on this position, Jeanie worked in education for 17 years. She holds a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies, MS in Educational Administration with Principal Certification, and is currently completing her dissertation in the Doctoral program at Texas A&M University Kingsville in Educational Leadership. She has taught both in public schools and served as an adjunct professor at the college level.

Jeanie has lived in Kingsville for 39 years with her husband, Sandy Alexander. They have two grown children and one grandson. Although Jeanie does not have a military background, she does understand the transitions military families endure. As a child, Jeanie’s father worked in the Texas oil fields. As a result, Jeanie transitioned to four different schools. Her goal is to make transition smooth for the military families as they relocated to the Kingsville area.

Since assuming the role of School Liaison Officer for NAS Kingsville, Jeanie has been recognized as the Civilian of the Quarter. She has implemented the S2S program at Kingsville and Riviera Independent School Districts and hosted Transition Counselor Institutes for area educators. In the summer of 2010, Jeanie initiated Operation: School Supply, helping 44 students at NAS Kingsville access needed educational materials. Jeanie is busy preparing for Operation: School Supply 2011, an Educator’s Boot Camp, and a Back-to-School Splash to be held over the next several months.

Kindergarten Transitions In Pensacola

By: Carissa Bergosh, NAS
Pensacola SLO

“How will my child handle the first day of kindergarten?” This is a common question asked by parents. Some small children, along with their parents, are anxious about starting kindergarten. This transition to “big school” is a major step for children, and the anxiety they feel is a normal part of the developmental process.

About 50 children and their parents from Corry Station and NAS Pensacola Child Development Centers were given the opportunity to tour the public school they are to attend next year. The field trips were held at Pleasant Grove, Helen Caro, and Blue Angels Elementary Schools. “We want to help make it less stressful for the children and their families,” said Carissa Bergosh, School Liaison Officer.



Photo: Pre-kindergarten students from Pensacola CDC visit local elementary school.

On the visit to Helen Caro, one student exclaimed, “Wow, this playground is awesome!” Obviously, the children benefit from the kindergarten field trips because it builds excitement, but the parents benefit as well. The visits set the stage for a smooth transition from child care to kindergarten. As a School Liaison Officer, this is just one way of sending the military children and their parents off to school ready for success!



Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

Educational Partnerships at NAS Key West

Written By: Suzanne Bryant, SLO



Photo: Sparky and fire firefighter friends share very important information about fire safety with school children in Key West.

Naval Air Station Key West is developing a number of Partnerships in Education (PIE) programs where military families, civilian and military leaders, educators, and other members of the community are working together to establish strong support systems for military dependents and other students in the Monroe County School District. These partnerships are numerous and include providing services such as providing reading mentors, conducting health and exercise classes, offering scuba lessons to faculty and staff, catering school lunches at cost, renovating and maintaining ball fields, supervising lunch, overseeing recess, and more.

At Poinciana Elementary School, the NAS Fire and Emergency Services regularly participates in Career Day at the school. For the past 9 years, members of this unit have spent a morning in the school, bringing a fire truck and other emergency vehicles, demonstrating protective gear, and teaching students about safety and about what it means to be a firefighter. Poinciana Elementary Students learn about fire safety from Sparky and NAS Fire and Emergency Workers. "We are grateful to the Navy fire fighters and emergency crew for participating each year in our Career Day. The kids love to learn lessons from Sparky and the firefighters," said Amber Bosco, Poinciana Elementary School principal.



Photo: Students have an opportunity to come up and shake hands with the fire safety mascot, Sparky.

Sigsbee Charter School prides itself on the military and community partnership effort that have led to making this school a reality for the children of military service members and other children in the local area. Sigsbee Charter School depends on the generosity of service members and the greater community for support. Expressing her appreciation for the partnerships, Sigsbee principal Elisa Jannes stated, "With over 5,000 hours of volunteerism from our local military members, our students have learned the importance of service to one's community and environment. Our partnership with the armed forces has enriched students' lives and generated a deep respect for our country and its symbols."

Photo: Students watch carefully as they learn the proper method for lowering and folding a United States flag.





Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

NAS Whiting Field Remembers

Written By: Chris Hendrix, NAS Whiting Field SLO

The University of West Florida (UWF) celebrated Memorial Day on May 26, 2011 to honor the service members who have given their lives in service to the country. This program was hosted by the UWF Military Connections Committee. Program participants were selected by Chris Hendrix, the NAS Whiting Field School Liaison Officer, who was primarily responsible for planning this memorial service. This year's event featured Capt. Pete Hall, Commanding Officer at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field, as the keynote speaker. "Eloquence of words cannot adequately honor the deeds of those who have fallen," said Hall. "Part of what makes this country great is our ability to honor those who have paid so dearly for our freedom."

The NAS Whiting Field Color Guard posted and retired the colors; Milton High School student Erica Rowe, daughter of NAS Whiting Field's Chief Trevor Rowe, sang the National Anthem, and Chaplain Gregory McCrimmon of provided the invocation and benediction. A wreath was also laid at the flagpole in memory of the fallen veterans.



Photo: Chris Hendrix (center), the School Liaison Officer for NAS Whiting Field, joins other guests for a few light refreshments following the day's memorial services.



Photo: Command Master Chief NASWF Rafael Rosado prepares to present the wreath as part of the Memorial Day activities.



Photo: Program participants and other observers pay their respects as Sailors "present Colors."



APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



CELEBRATING MILITARY CHILDREN

Just twenty-six years ago, former Defense Secretary Caspar Weingberger designated April as Month of the Military Child. During this time each branch of the military service recognizes the sacrifices made by the children of parents who are serving our country. During April, military bases around the world honor these young American heroes with special events planned just for them. The month of April is the time to pay tribute to these children and recognize the commitment, sacrifice, and support they offer.

Members of the local community and the family and friends of active duty service members know all too well that when parents are serving the country their children are serving, too. Currently, over 1 million children have at least one parent serving in the military. These military families and their children endure long separations and are often required to move multiple times during the parent's service career. In fact, recent research suggests that military children move on average every 2.9 years and are likely to attend at least nine schools before graduating high school. Of course, these are just averages. In truth, military families and their children can easily give accounts of moving more frequently. In some cases, they have moved every year for several consecutive years. Privately, these children often take great pride in telling others how many times they have moved and where in the world they have lived.



Photo: Students at Mary Lee Clark Elementary School, St. Marys, Georgia show their "True Colors" on Uniform Pride Day by wearing uniforms, tee shirts, or other apparel which identify the commands or branches of service to which their families are attached.

Caring adults like educators, parents, and School Liaison Officers help promote resilience in military children by offering opportunities for them to become competent, confident, and contributing members of the communities in which they live.



Photo: LCDR Ed Callahan served as guest speaker at the Kingsland Elementary True Colors Campaign school assembly.



APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



CELEBRATING MILITARY CHILDREN



Photo: Students at Mary Lee Clark Elementary School point out for each other where their families have lived and served around the world.

Throughout the southeast region, school liaison officers supported and initiated programming to honor the military school-age children. Whether through programs, activities or awards, schools were encouraged to recognize the sacrifices these heroes make year after year.

At Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, School Liaison Officer Clainetta Jefferson initiated a district-wide event called the True Colors Campaign. With the support of the Superintendent Dr. Will Hardin, and school principals, Camden County schools went to great lengths to honor military students of every age.

Scheduled just after annual standardized testing, the True Colors Campaign was a perfect note on which to end the school year. Schools throughout the Camden County school district hosted essay contests, held special patriotic assemblies, decorated bulletin boards, and interviewed military students for televised morning programs at various schools.



On Friday, to celebrate the end of the week-long True Colors Campaign, faculty and staff, students, parent volunteers, and administrators wore red, white, and blue to school. The following day, MWR NSB Kings Bay hosted "Kid's Fest" which provided entertainment, rides, and refreshments for military children and their families. What a spectacular way for educators, the community, and the command to let their "true colors come shining through!"

Photo: Starting in late March, True Colors Campaign flyers like the one shown here were proudly displayed at schools throughout Camden County.

A graphic for the True Colors Campaign featuring a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The text is arranged in a bold, patriotic font.

TRUE COLORS CAMPAIGN
April is Month of the Military Child

**Join Camden County Schools
in celebrating children's support
of our military community!**

APRIL 25 - 29, 2011

**Show your True Colors on
Friday, April 29, 2011
by proudly wearing Red, White & Blue!**



APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



CELEBRATING MILITARY CHILDREN



Photo: Military children and their families enjoy a “Day at the Bay” in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as part of the Month of the Military Child.

said Chris Dickson, School Liaison Officer for NS Guantanamo Bay. One participant shared, “It was nice to run into neighbors and coworkers. It gave me and my family a chance to talk and enjoy a Day at the Bay.” (Information provided by MC3 Leona Mynes/U.S. NAVY)

In other parts of the southeast region, school districts and installations hosted events in recognition of the Month of the Military Child. At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, MWR hosted the Day at the Bay event to honor and recognize military children for their sacrifices. Held on April 30, 2011, this event featured music from the Caribbean Chillers, free concessions, paddle boats, kayaks, canoes, a wildlife show, and aerial demonstrations by a Navy C-12 Huron logistics cargo and passenger plane, and a Coast Guard H-65 Helicopter.

“This event provided a fun, memorable day for children, families, and the community. There were a lot of cool things to do at no cost to families. It was a day in which everyone came out and enthusiastically showed their support for the military child and family. Families enjoyed the event, which brought fun and safe activities to children and parents. Day at the Bay brought many different organizations and departments together which contributed to a greater event,”



Photo: A military child at “Day on the Bay” has a first-hand look at a Cuban iguana.



Photo: The U.S. Navy C-12 Huron logistics cargo and passenger plane flew over Ferry Landing Beach during Day at the Bay.



APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



CELEBRATING MILITARY CHILDREN



Photos: School bulletin boards in Pensacola (below) and Kings Bay (left) honor military children and their families for service to the nation.



Photo: Carissa Bergosh, School Liaison Officer accepted a resolution on behalf of NAS Pensacola from Escambia County Superintendent Malcolm Thomas. The resolution recognized April as the Month of the Military Child.



Photo (left): NROTC Cadets from Camden County High School 'present Colors' at Mamie Lou Gross Elementary School during True Colors Campaign assembly.

Photo (right): Teens and youth enjoy a day of water play as part of Month of the Military Child events in Gulfport, Mississippi.





Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

Escambia High Hosts S2S Event

Written By: Carissa Bergosh,
NAS Pensacola SLO

There is a new program at Escambia High School of Pensacola, Florida, called Student 2 Student or S2S, as it is commonly known. This is a student-led program which reaches out to help students who are transitioning into a new school or local community. S2S members do this by helping students build friendships and providing necessary information and resources. After implementing an S2S program at their high school, students at Escambia High School were excited about creating a welcoming culture for transitioning students as well as teaching current students about total acceptance, leadership, and the art of building relationships.

Thirty-three new students at Escambia High School, along with 18 S2S students, gathered for a pizza lunch to get to know each other better and to follow up on each other's progress in acclimating to the new environment. They even played a fun M & M game in which an interesting personal fact had to be shared for each piece of candy chosen.

The sponsors of the program are Captain Judy Miller, Escambia High School's NJROTC Instructor and Mitch White, 9th grade Guidance Counselor. These faculty members were pleased with initial participation in the S2S event. Special recognition goes to Linda Delaney and the Corry Station Child and Youth Program staff for supporting this event. Escambia High School looks forward to hosting more events and developing a strong S2S program in the future.



Photo: Students at Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida take turns participating in a game designed to make relocation easier.



Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

Volunteers Honored at NAS Panama City

Written By: Lynda Kent,
NAS Panama City SLO

“It takes a village to raise a child” is a phrase which has become popular in recent years. This idea of partnership within the community on behalf of the children could be used to describe the atmosphere at the Partnership Awards Ceremony held on May 23, 2011 at the Naval Support Activity Panama City. Sailors who volunteer in the local schools and educators who serve military children gathered to be recognized for their efforts in working with students this school year. CAPT (Sel) Jessica Pfefferkorn and Superintendent Bill Husfelt presented the awards to 14 sailors and 10 educators.



Photo: Superintendent Husfelt (far left) and Capt. Pfefferkorn (far right) stand with military service honorees.

The sailors were recognized for their combined 302 hours of service as volunteers and mentors in the local schools. Their many activities included accompanying students on field trips, tutoring, helping with field days and track meets, team teaching with the classroom teachers, and chaperoning the prom. In his address to the group, Superintendent Husfelt said, “We’re very fortunate to have the Navy in our area . It is clear that local service members care about schools like they do. It is a win-win situation all the way around. There’s not a down side to any of this.” CAPT (Sel) Pfefferkorn added, “It’s our way of giving back, but also our way of making a difference.”

School administrators and military families were invited to submit nominations for educators who had gone above and beyond to meet the needs of military students during the school year. Two award recipients established the “Little Troopers” program in support of students with deployed parents. As program sponsors, they led activities such as writing letters to the deployed parent, making crafts, and hosting discussion groups.



Photo: Lynda Kent (far left), NSA Panama City School Liaison Officer, watches as Superintendent Husfelt and Capt.(Sel) Pfefferson present awards to educators who offered outstanding support to military students and community.

Other recipients were honored for going above and beyond by addressing the needs of military children experiencing academic and emotional challenges associated with frequent transitions and multiple deployments. One student who attended the ceremony in honor of her teacher said, “She knew my dad was deployed, and she’d keep tabs on how he was, how we were doing at home, and if she could help in any way. My teacher also incorporated positive things about the military in her lesson plans which really made us military kids feel good and accepted.”



Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

Air Show at NAS/JRB Fort Worth

Written By: Michael Arnett,
NAS / JRB Fort Worth

The Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base hosted a three-day, signature Air Show event from April 15-17, 2011. The Air Show event was one of five highlighted Air Shows around the country celebrating the Centennial of Naval Aviation. The Blue Angels were the feature attraction. The Air Power Expo was particularly significant because local school districts were invited to participate in the Friday practice Air Show.

Over seven thousand local middle and high school students came to the NAS Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base to help celebrate the centennial event. Thirteen local districts and five private schools along with various home school groups were represented. This was the largest number of students ever to visit the base.

In addition to attending the Air Show, many schools also participated in an essay writing contest. The essay topic centered around how students planned to achieve their dreams. The essay winners were treated to exciting rides with many of the Air Show performers on the Wednesday before the Air Power Expo. Parents, administrators, and students enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience flight.



Photo: Essay winners enjoy exciting plane ride in vintage stunt aircraft.



Photo: Captain Kathryn Hire, Naval aviator and NASA astronaut, speaks to many of the 7,000 students attending the Air Power Expo.



Photo: A student from Southwest Christian High School, prepares for his ride in a vintage plane after winning the essay contest, "My Goals and How I Plan to Achieve Them."



Photo: Local participants join active duty members in viewing aircraft in a local hangar.



Excellence In Education

School Liaison Officers Making a Difference for Military Children

Women in Aviation Celebrated

Written By: Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jacksonville, Deputy PAO



Photo: Flight Navigation Officer Lt. Julia Feys shares her Naval history with students.

Three women naval aviators from VP-30 visited Nease High School May 13, 2011 as part of the NAS Jacksonville Centennial of Naval Aviation activities. The team consisting of P-3 Orion Pilot Lt. Leigh Shannon, Naval Flight Officer (NFO) Lt. Julia Feys, and Flight Engineer AWF1 Katherine Cary, spent nearly two hours talking about their backgrounds, education, and career paths to NJROTC students at the school. Lt. Shannon began the presentation by asking the students how many had family members in the military and if they were interested in joining one of the armed services. She also asked how many wanted to fly aircraft and if they liked traveling. Many of the students enthusiastically raised their hands to each question.

After a short video about naval aviation, the team of aviators introduced themselves to the students. "I graduated high school in a small town in New Hampshire. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after high school and then I learned about the Naval Academy and that I could go there and learn to fly airplanes. I also grew up surfing and learned that most of the time people in the Navy were stationed by the water. So I decided to join," Shannon told the students. "I finished college and headed to flight school. During my career so far, I've flown five different aircraft and been all over the world. I'm a pilot at VP-30 right now but am soon headed back to Hawaii."

AWF1Cary also discussed her background and how she chose her career. "I'm from a small town in Wisconsin and was working in a movie theater while attending college. I decided I wanted to do something different so I joined the Navy in 2001. After boot camp, I got orders to fly on planes in Bahrain. I was 19 at the time," she said. "I have travelled to a lot of really cool places including Egypt, Japan, Thailand, Afghanistan, Iraq, and some places that probably no one has heard of. I was also stationed in Hawaii with Lt. Shannon and then we both ended up here. I love flying on the P-3's and being part of the aircrew team," continued Cary. "I'm also working on my college degree and the Navy is paying for most of it."

Feys also talked about her job as an NFO and why she joined the Navy. "I'm from a town near Detroit, Michigan. I graduated from high school and was working at a VFW hall and decided to check out the Naval Academy. It was free and I wanted to leave Michigan. So I was accepted, graduated with a degree in computer science and became an NFO," said Feys. "After lots of training, I went to Whidbey Island, Washington for my first tour in a P-3 squadron. We went to a lot of really great places. Then, I came back here and am soon transferring to Dallas to conduct testing on aircraft."

The event was coordinated by NAS Jacksonville School Liaison Officer Dawn Mills. "We are here today to celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation and the women of naval aviation. We extended the invitation to local schools to see if they were interested in this type of presentation and it's been very well-received in the local area," said Mills. Several of the cadets mentioned that they enjoyed learning firsthand of the options available to females in today's Navy. Others commented that they learned a lot about the various paths a person can take to end up in naval aviation. We were privileged to have this assembly for our NJROTC cadets and a few other classes that chose to attend," said Nease High School NJROTC Instructor and retired Navy Capt. Bob Young.



Photo: Lt. Leigh Shannon answers students' questions about life as a Naval aviator.



College Corner

Clainetta Jefferson, School Liaison Officer NSB Kings Bay

RESOURCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

10 Tips for College Freshmen

Well, it's almost here! You have graduated high school and you are ready for college. Are you sure? Before you head off to enjoy the rest of the summer, you might want to use the coming weeks to prepare yourself for the college experience, especially if you are making plans to attend college far away from home. Here are just a few tips which might help you and your family:

1. **Set up a Filing System** — It may not seem important now, but a good filing system will help keep you on track. Before you leave home, sit down with your parents and decide what records need to be kept and where. It will be important to decide which documents should be stored as hard copies and which can be stored electronically. Either way, you'll be glad you did.
2. **Take Care of Business**— For years your parents have managed some of these important affairs. Now, it's time for you to learn about things like health, car, and renter's insurance (if you will be living in an apartment). If you do not have a bank account, be sure to open one which serves the campus and surrounding areas. Military dependents may consider taking budgeting courses available through the local Fleet and Family Service Center.
3. **Work Hard for the Money**—As tempting as it may be to wile the summer away saying farewells and hanging out at the beach, now is the right time to take on a full or part-time job to help cover some of those little expenses — the mini refrigerator, bed linens, microwave, etc. By saving over the summer you could avoid some heartache those first few months of school.
4. **Shop the Sales** — Take your time and shop around. Make your hard-earned dollars work for you. Retailers are looking to get into your school budget, so make them earn your attention. Comparison shopping is a great way to stretch funds. Besides getting all the necessities, you might even be able to afford a few niceties.
5. **Find your Way Home** — Whether you are attending school nearby or far away, it is a good idea to make a practice drive to and from the campus at least once. Not only will you become familiar with the route, you can identify important features along the way such as rest areas, well-lighted gas stations, police call boxes, etc. This may also give you an opportunity to experience highway or interstate driving if your driving experience has been limited to local streets and roads.
6. **Check-out the Campus** — You may have taken a campus tour before finalizing your college choice but that does not mean you know where to find important offices on campus. Get out there and explore. Go out and find the infirmary, the police station, your dormitory, and cafeteria before you need them.
7. **Vehicle Maintenance** — Get your car into the shop for a full diagnostic and tune-up. Take care of even the most minor of repairs now. Maintaining your vehicle now and on a regular basis could save costly repairs later.
8. **Health Maintenance** — You're young, you're strong, and you feel great. Still, you need to make arrangements to get a general check-up with your primary physician, an updated eye exam, a dental cleaning, and visit with any specialists your health requires. Get a full understanding of any medications you require. While you're at it, you might want to talk to a nutritionist about how to avoid the infamous "Freshmen 15."
9. **Keep In Touch** — Be sure to trade contact information like email, phone, and mailing addresses with friends and family before you leave town. Remember to think of mom and dad back home before you post anything to Facebook. Don't embarrass them!
10. **Make Time for Family**— It may be old-fashioned, but staying in touch with family can make the difference between a successful transition to college and a disastrous one. Make the time to visit extended family, watch movies with younger siblings, and go to the family reunion before August gets here. For many of you, this is the last time you'll ever live at home, and it's time you can't get back once you've left.



Learning Matters

Judy Cromartie, School Liaison Officer, NS Mayport



RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Supporting Year-Round Learning

Depending on where they live, students may have a couple of weeks or over a month left to enjoy summer. In either case, it is important to make sure that learning takes place year-round. Studies show that by the end of fifth grade children without summer learning opportunities are nearly three years behind their peers in reading. So what can you do to stop summer learning loss and get ready for the new school year? To avoid what is called the “summer slide,” that loss of learned skills and knowledge from the end of one school year to the beginning of the next year, parents need to make sure that students are actively reading and learning throughout the summer. Whether enrolled in summer camp, participating in online/virtual learning, or enjoying a learning vacation, summer learning can still take place. Any activities which are learning-focused can help lay a strong foundation for a successful school year.

Parents should be careful to choose programs which are best suited for their child’s academic needs. With a bit of research, parents may even find programs which allow secondary students to earn credits which may be accepted by the schools in which they are enrolled. Guidance counselors can offer the best advice about what information to gather and what documentation to maintain. Websites which can provide free and fun online learning include the following:

www.thinkfinity.org/games-and-tools [K-12 fun games and activities for long summer days]

www.khanacademy.org [all ages - 2100 videos & self-paced exercises covering many content areas]

www.coolmath.com [fun games, puzzles, and more – all related to math]

<http://freerice.com> [great vocabulary game which donates 10 grains of free rice to United Nations]

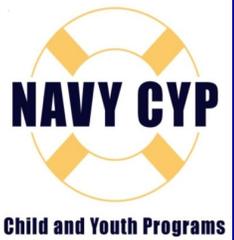


Year-round learning usually takes place in the form of “disguised learning” which has long been a hallmark of great parenting. Through routine activities parents can help their children apply academic concepts to daily life. Whether shopping, cooking, working on the car, or attending a sports event, parents can create learning experiences for children of any age. Shopping provides opportunities to teach about price comparison, while cooking invites lessons on nutrition, hygiene and measurements – dry and wet. Working on the car involves the use of new tools and measurements as well. Sporting events like baseball are filled with statistics. How is that ERA (Earned Run Average) calculated anyway?

Let’s get this school year off to a great start. Parents, look for opportunities to teach planning, time management, and more. Disguised learning helps answer the proverbial question, “When am I ever going to need this?” Start now! It is never too late to end the summer and begin the school year with strong foundation. Whatever you decide to do keep the learning active. Remember, have fun with it! Have a great 2011-2012 school year.



NRSE School Liaison Officer DIRECTORY



Navy School Liaisons Officers work as part of a global network designed to support Navy personnel in addressing educational needs for military school-age children. Command Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) School Liaison Officers can connect Navy families to educational resources around the world.



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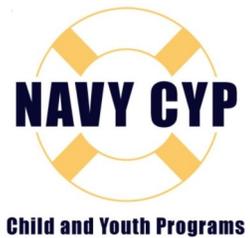
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**Anchoring military families from
the East Coast to the Gulf Coast**



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