



# The News From Room 9

Arleta School

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## Important Dates

**Dr. M. L. King's  
Birthday** 1/18  
**NO SCHOOL**

**Late Opening**  
**1st bell @ 9:55** 1/20  
**(No breakfast)**

**Kindergarten  
Roundup** 1/21  
**1:30pm**

### Are you Web Savvy?

I have a blog on the Arleta website that hasn't been updated since April '09. Yes, it's shameful but uploading photos and content takes time that I do not have. If you are willing and able to help, please let me know. Thanks!

### Schedule Change

We have **Library** on Mondays & Fridays.

### Wish List for Room 9

- AA batteries
- Stories on tape
- Books in Spanish
- Colored pencils

**Backpack!**  
**Check it everyday!**  
**Thank you!**

## READING

Encourage your children to use strategies when they get stuck. Try some of the following phrases:

- *Get your mouth ready to say the first sound.*
- *Look at the picture for clues.*
- *Look for a chunk you know.*
- *Point and slide.*
- *What sounds right?*
- *What makes sense?*

Rereading the Daily Message is another way to help your child practice the skills s/he's learning in school.

Just a reminder: The books that come home in the white bag from our Lending Library are not at most children's reading level. These are meant to be read aloud and enjoyed together. You can keep them until you're finished. However, I ask students to only take one at a time.

## SPELLING

Spelling in K/1 is similar to spelling in upper grades. Students need to memorize sight words (i.e. *the, she, my*) that regularly occur in print. We call them **snap words** because we need to write them "in a snap."

Students also learn strategies to spell other words (i.e. *basketball, furious, garage*). Knowing letter sounds, spelling patterns and common word endings (-ing, -ed) is essential. Ask your child to use the strategies we practice at school:

- "What sounds do you hear?"
- Encourage "finger spelling."
- Clap the syllables & focus on one part of the word.
- Think of a rhyming word.
- "Have you seen the word before?"

It's okay if all the words they write are not spelled conventionally. In fact, if they *are*, your child isn't getting the practice they need to become independent spellers.

*"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically."* —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Classroom Updates

### Toys

Toys from home need to stay at home. They are distracting and are easily lost or broken. The children know that if that I will take any toys brought from home and return them in June. Thanks for your help with this. Books are always welcome as long as they are labeled with your child's name.

### Kindergarten Round-Up

Know any neighborhood families with a child who will be ready for kindergarten in September? Please encourage them to attend Arleta's Kindergarten Round-Up on Thursday January 21st at 1:30pm. This is an informational gathering to introduce new families to Arleta.