## 

WELCH ELEMENTARY: March 1, 2013

Dear Parents,

On March 1, Welch students participated in a special event called, “Read Captions Across America.” The event is a unique way to enhance reading skills through the use of television and media captions. Captions are the translation of the audio or sound portions of the media into text. Captions are meant to transcribe speaker dialogue, sound effects, music, and to provide other cues to identify sounds. They provide vital access to information for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The benefits of using captioned media are also significant and valuable for hearing students, struggling or hesitant readers, students for whom English is a learning language, and visual learners.

Research shows that captions can:

* Improve reading and listening comprehension
* Help students acquire new vocabulary
* Enhance word recognition and decoding of words
* Reinforce spelling and grammar
* Provide overall enjoyment in reading

Kosiken, R., R. Wilson, and C.J. Jensema, “Closed-Captioned Television: A New Tool for Reading Instruction.” Reading World May 1985: 7.

At school, the students were introduced to the concept of captions and watched a Dr. Seuss DVD with captions. Some classrooms also participated in other Dr. Seuss themed activities throughout the day.

At home, we challenge you to turn on the captions to convert your child’s TV viewing into reading time. Captions or subtitles are available on most commercial DVDs. Instructions for turning on the closed-captions at home can be found on the reverse side. Additionally, some of the local movie chains run an Open Captioned Movie each week or offer a system for displaying captions on an individual LCD device.

### We challenge each student to view at least one TV program, DVD, or movie during the week with captions. If the student completes the raffle ticket on the reverse, they will be entered into a drawing for prizes. The classroom with the most returned raffle tickets will be eligible for class cupcakes.

Thanks for your support!

Jennifer Beard & Michelle Rich

How to Turn on Captions at Home:

The default position for TV captions is to be closed.   
  
To open the closed captions, a click of the CC button on the remote control is all it takes for most modern television sets.  
  
For older sets and for some models, a slightly different procedure using an on-screen Menu is necessary.  
  
Where the use of a Menu is required, there is usually a button on the remote control that reads “Menu.” When a Menu button is pressed various choices or menus appear, such as a choices of language, setting the TV’s internal clock, auto-programming the TV, choosing channels and so on, including several options for captions, such as having them run with the sound on or eliminating the sound, but keeping the captions.  
  
We recommend that you leave the TV captions open, along with the sound, all the time for your learners.

If you are a cable TV subscriber, you need to use the remote control that came with your TV rather than the remote control provided by your cable supplier.

http://captionsforliteracy.org/how\_to\_turn\_on\_captions.htm

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CAPTION RAFFLE TICKET

Return by March 11th

Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I watched \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ minutes of captioned media at home.

Comments:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Read Captions Across America is sponsored by

The Described and Captioned Media Program.

The mission of the DCMP is to promote and provide

promote and provide equal access to communication and learning

for students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

www.dcmp.org