



VOLUME 16

ISSUE 5

Footsteps 2 Brilliance linking school, home and community

by Kelly Grayson

Newport Independent School District is looking to technology to get a jump on early childhood education. Research has shown that children from poorly educated, low-income families come to school typically two years behind their more privileged peers on standardized language tests. This “achievement gap” affects children’s ability to read and continues through their school careers. Reading development is one of our most important goals at Newport Independent Schools. Our administration and teachers are committed to every child being kindergarten ready and reading on level by third grade. In order to achieve this goal we would like for every preschool student to have access to technology that will increase literacy through a new and exciting program called Footsteps 2 Brilliance.

Connecting school, home and community through Footsteps 2 Brilliance is an investment that can close the reading achievement gap prior to kindergarten. Footsteps 2 Brilliance is an award-winning app created to give your pre-K through third grade child a head start toward school success. The program utilizes mobile technology to prepare all children to read proficiently. The comprehensive, engaging program will accelerate vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, creativity and multiple-choice test-taking skills in your child. The program consists of more than 1,000 beautifully illustrated books, games and songs, featuring more than 1,000 important words a child needs to become a strong reader and writer.

Children will have access to Footsteps 2 Brilliance in the car, on a family vacation or at home. The app can be accessed through any smart device, including iPhones, iPads, Android phones and tablets, Kindle Fire, Google Nexus tablets and

traditional computers. The program provides your child with levels of interactive play through Book Buddies, Create a Book, eBooks, and games. The Academic Language Program for Students or better known as, ALPS is one of the many innovative book series where your child will love features like touching a word and it clearly pronounces it for them. The program will read the books, sing the songs to them and display creative ways of accessing and measuring their progress.



This is a great opportunity for parents to involve children in reading and fun activities while waiting at the doctor’s office or in line at the grocery. This will keep your child occupied in an educational program that is fun, innovative and so rewarding. Footsteps 2 Brilliance is an enticing, interactive, 24/7 learning experience digitally linking school and home to give students the edge they need for success in school today and the world tomorrow.

The Newport Board of Education and local donors are investing in our children with a citywide literacy solution. Funding of this program will enable every child ages 3-8 in the Newport zip code to utilize this mobile reading technology. A video presentation on Footsteps 2 Brilliance will be presented to the Newport neighborhood associations and city government as we continue our community partnership to improve education in our schools.

For more information on Footsteps 2 Brilliance, please contact Lisa Swanson at Newport Independent Schools by calling 859.292.3040. 