



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 40

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### Lois' Corner!

Energizing Education always wants to make sure that when our mentors sign up, they feel prepared to go into the school buildings and read with students. To ensure this happens, we provide a one and a half hour literacy training provided by our Literacy Specialist. During this training mentors receive tools and tips to help them work through a 30 minute lesson plan with their students. Because this training only happens once, several times throughout the school year, we provide short videos that are shared with our mentors and on our [website](#) of helpful topics to keep in mind while they are mentoring. Some topics we have covered are using magnetic letters, encouraging independence, the importance of daily writing, and how to respond when a student doesn't know a word. I helped with our latest video covering the lesson plan and it will be available in the beginning of February. If you haven't done so yet, please take the time to watch these videos, as they can be great little reminders when reading with students.

# Energizing Education

## Bennett Elementary School

### Energizing Education Gets Ready for More Fun in 2018

Energizing Education is excited and ready to bring a lot more fun to students and their families for the last half of the school year. In our Energizing Education literacy lounge, we are seeing progress every day. Mentors are doing everything to help their students feel more confident with reading and writing. Students are moving up reading levels and their journal writing is improving little by little each week. This growth is something we hope is translating into their work in their classrooms and that their families are noticing an improvement at home as well.

In just the first trimester, Bennett students have read with their mentors for 183 sessions and a combined total of 3,447 minutes. These numbers in addition to the smiles we see and the things we hear from our mentors is a reminder to us how important our work is and why we continuously strive to improve our program. Students are so

excited to read with their mentors each week that they make sure everyone knows. A first grade teacher approached our Site Coordinator at Bennet after one of her EE students had his first session. She said that if she ever wondered about the success of EE, to look at the face of this student because he was beaming and so excited that he "got to" come to EE. Stories like this always make us happy to hear. We are so lucky to have the mentors that we do from the community and are appreciative of their commitment to EE and their students.

In addition to more family nights at the schools, more exciting things to look forward to this year are the big night at the Michigan Theatre and our end of year Mentor Appreciation brunch. Although it's early in the year, we already know there will be much to celebrate.

Keep following us on social media and checking our website to stay in the loop about all exciting things EE!



### MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Patrick Hitchingham

**Why did you decide to become a volunteer?** I enjoy reading and want to help kids read better so they will enjoy it also.

**What do you like about mentoring your student?**

Watching her improve week to week.

**Favorite childhood book:** Winne the Pooh series

**Favorite book now:** Too many to pick :)



# February Mentor Training Calendar

Date	Time	Type	Location
February 1	2:00-3:30 pm	EE Mentor	United Way, Conference Room C
February 5	9:00-10:30 am	EE Mentor	United Way, Conference Room C
February 13	10:00-11:30 am	EE Mentor	United Way, Conference Room C
February 21	2:00-3:30 pm	EE Mentor	United Way, Conference Room C

*Contact Charlie at [energizingeducation@uwjackson.org](mailto:energizingeducation@uwjackson.org) to sign up*



## Literacy Tip of the Month

### Start the New Year with your literacy goals in mind

Strive to read 20 minutes each day! No matter where or when, it's important for children to get in reading time. Be a reading role model yourself. Make sure your children and grandchildren see you reading too. Whether it's directions for a recipe, a book, or a magazine. Let them know you can read many different things

Mark your calendars!  
Join us for our Chocolate Family Night at Bennett on February 13th from 5:30-7:00 pm!

It's going to be a deliciously fun time!

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Looking for something to keep you busy during the month of February? Bring your doll and dress up for the "American Girl Tea Party". A social gala taking place on Saturday, February 9th and 10th. Please call the Carnegie Library to register. Throughout the month, we will also be holding story times for various ages. Call us for more information at (517)-788-4087 (ext. 1331). Also, check out our website at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com) for other events and to find more great programs at our branches. Hope to see you at any of our locations.

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Find out more!

<http://energizingeducationjackson.org>

or

Energizing Education on Facebook

For volunteer information:

Contact Charlie Miller  
[energizingeducation@uwjackson.org](mailto:energizingeducation@uwjackson.org)

To Donate:

Contact Lois Dunning at  
[ldunning@uwjackson.org](mailto:ldunning@uwjackson.org)