

On Apr 10, 2015, at 8:59 AM, Alford, Johnnie <[Johnnie.Alford@stpsb.org](mailto:Johnnie.Alford@stpsb.org)> wrote:

Happy Friday, Friends!

Yesterday I happened in to the Winn Dixie at the corner of Hwy 190 and 25. I thought to myself as I pulled into the parking lot, "Wow, there are lots of people here today!" I noticed the Pepsi cart outside the store and saw families getting hotdogs. As I entered the store, I saw a group of Covington Elementary teachers at a table with some families there. As I shopped for my six items I needed, I spotted tables with teachers and paras scattered throughout the store. I finally saw some early childhood teachers and learned that it was Family Math Night. How creative is that! Every table I passed had engaged adults and children working together with school staff.

I know we often struggle with getting our families involved, but here were these teachers, after work hours, meeting families where they were. I loved it and couldn't wait to share this morning. So, congratulations to Covington Elementary School for going the extra mile to engage young children and their families in fun ways to build and strengthen skills in an environment that feels familiar to families! I think as we move forward, with families busier than ever, we need to be very resourceful and keep those "out-of-the-box" ideas flowing in order to continue to find ways to bridge the connections between home and school. It benefits our children in immeasurable ways! Once again, great job, CES!

*Johnnie Alford*

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