

**ROBERT CLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**1301 Springdale Circle**  
**Naperville, IL 60564**  
**630-428-6067**

September 29, 2003

Dear Parents of \_\_\_\_\_:

Storytelling club is an adventure in learning to tell stories. Your student has expressed an interest in joining the Clow School Student Storytelling Club. Storytellers meet before school on Friday mornings to learn, practice, and enjoy the art of storytelling. Each student will choose a short story, develop it, learn it, and ultimately tell it in front of an audience. This will be a great opportunity for developing poise and self-confidence when speaking before a group while it will help improve expressive language skills. It will also be a lot of fun! Throughout the year, we will share our stories with the students at Clow and at various other locations as the opportunity arises.

Meetings are held on Friday mornings at 8:15 A.M. in the Clow School LMC.

Being a good storyteller requires commitment, practice, and attendance at meetings. Your help in maintaining consistent attendance is very important. You can also help by encouraging your child to practice the story until he/she has learned it. Learning the story does not mean memorizing it. Learning the story does mean being able to describe the sequence of events. Let your child know that you are a willing listener, and be prepared to listen to the story many times! There are nuances that will make the story unique to the teller, as it becomes their own tale. If you have a cassette recorder, please encourage your child to record their story so that he or she can listen to it whenever the opportunity arises. A list of basic storytelling techniques is attached.

**Our first meeting will be held on Friday, October 3, 2003.**

Thanks for helping with what will prove to be a fun-filled adventure. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at any time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Black and Mrs. Frett  
Clow School Student Storytelling Club sponsors

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Friday, October 3	club, 8:15 A.M.
Friday, October 10	club, 8:15 A.M.
Friday, October 17	club, 8:15 A.M.
<b><u>Friday, October 24</u></b>	<b><u>no club</u></b>
Friday, October 31	club, 8:15 A.M.
Friday, November 14	club, 8:15 A.M.
Friday, November 21	club, 8:15 A.M.
Friday, December 5	club, 8:15 A.M.
Friday, December 12	club, 8:15 A.M.
<b><u>Friday, December 19</u></b>	<b><u>no club</u></b>

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***Selecting a Story***

1. Find a story that you REALLY, REALLY like. Plan on doing a lot of reading and listening to find one. Select one that begs for you to tell it.
2. Make sure your story meets these criteria:
  - It is a tale you will want to tell a lot!
  - It is a tale that your audience will want to hear.
  - The telling will hold your audience's attention.
  - It has a good beginning and a good ending.
  - It is worthy of the time it will take to learn and tell it.

***Preparing the Story to Tell***

1. Learn the sequence of events. What happens in the beginning, the middle, and the end?
2. Learn the bones of the story. What details must you include to tell this story?
3. Create a storyboard. Picture the tale as it will be told. What is the visual sequence of events?
4. Create pictures in your memory. What do the events, characters, places in your story look like?
5. Read your story out loud. Listen to the language of the story. Are there any words or phrases that sound special and add something to the tale?
6. Tell your story to yourself over and over and over again. Have you made the story your own?
7. Be sure that you know some background of your story and the source of your story. Does it originate from a particular culture? What book did you find it in?

***Telling Your Story***

1. Realize that you are giving your listeners a gift. Think of the way you tell your story as unwrapping this special gift.
2. Think of the opening of your story compared to the untying of the ribbon. It is the beginning and will set the tone.
3. Communicate with your audience and give them your gift by looking into their eyes and talking to them.
4. Pace yourself. Speak clearly and try not to rush.
5. Let your audience hear how much you like this story as you tell it.
6. Let the story tell you how much you should gesture or move.
7. End your story gracefully.
8. Relax and enjoy the experience. Remember the audience may be looking at you but they are listening to the magic of the story that you love to tell.