

# Enrollment is now OPEN!!



### <u>2017/2018</u> <u>School Year</u>

For new enrollments: please click on MyPACE and sign in as a guest to get started.

For re-enrollments: to get started please sign into your MyPACE account and click on the reenroll button at the bottom of the page.

Scheduling for Student Learning Plan (SLP) appointments have begun.

If you have any questions please call your local learning center.

## **Teacher Tip of the Month**

by Mollie Harings, Principal

#### **Exploring STEM**

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is being recognized and incorporated more in education. I am focusing on the engineering portion in this month's teacher tip. The engineering design process can be used in many activities. This process is especially useful when you are introducing hands-on activities, as it is a guide students can use as they work to solve problems presented to them. If you would like more information, check out PBS Kids Parents & Educators Online Workshop at the following link

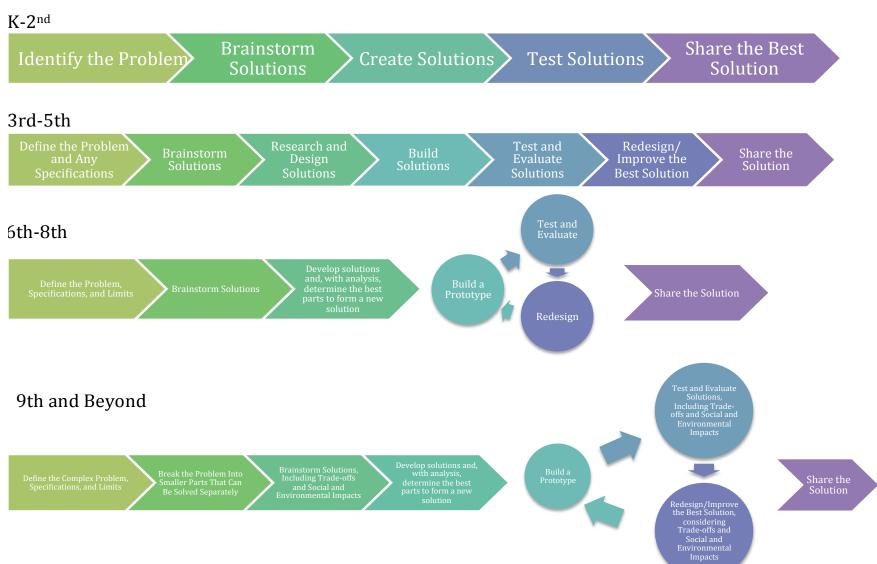
http://pbskids.org/designsquad/parentseducators/workshop/welcome.html. I found it a great way to see the steps in

action. My kids and I have been enjoying the Design Squad episodes, from PBS Kids, and are exploring more ideas based on what we have seen. You can also look at NASA's engineering design process videos at the following

link: https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a010000/a010300/a010341/)

for more samples. The flowcharts I have created are combination of NASA, Next Generation Science Standards, and Dartmouth College's engineering design methods. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like additional resources.





### **Growth Mindset: Empowering Parent Educators, Empowering Students, Empowering Minds**

(Ideas inspired by The Growth Mindset Coach, Brock and Hundley, 2016).

This year, we will share a topic related to growth mindset every month in our newsletter. Here is a quick recap of what a growth mindset is, which was provided last year in December's Teacher Tip.

We are all a combination of fixed mindset, the idea that we are or we aren't smart, and growth mindset, the idea that we can cultivate our abilities. We do have the ability to change our mindset because our brain acts like a muscle - the more we use it, the stronger it becomes. Research has shown that the more a person leans toward a growth mindset, the more empowered the person is. How does this affect your child? Students with more of a growth mindset will understand that mistakes and setbacks are a natural part of the learning process, they will enjoy the effort involved in challenges rather than be afraid of them, and they will forget about how smart they look and focus on learning. Carol Dweck published the book Mindset: The New Psychology of Success to share with educators the benefits of a growth mindset in students and how to help change one's mindset. Here is a link (http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/09/23/carol-dweck-revisits-the-growth-mindset.html) to a short article she also wrote in Education Week. Remember, changing our mindset is not just for kids; it's for us, too! Just the other night, I jokingly said I messed something up. My youngest son sweetly corrected me by saying, "Mom, you don't say you messed up, you say this may take some time and effort." I encourage us all to grow right along with our children.

For this month, we challenge you, the parent-educator, to set a growth mindset S.M.A.R.T. goal for yourself. What is a S.M.A.R.T. goal you ask? It is a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound goal. Describe what you want to accomplish, when you want to accomplish it, and how you will know it was accomplished, making sure the goal is relevant to what you and your children need to work on when it comes to learning about growth mindsets. This goal will help direct you on your path of growth mindset development.



