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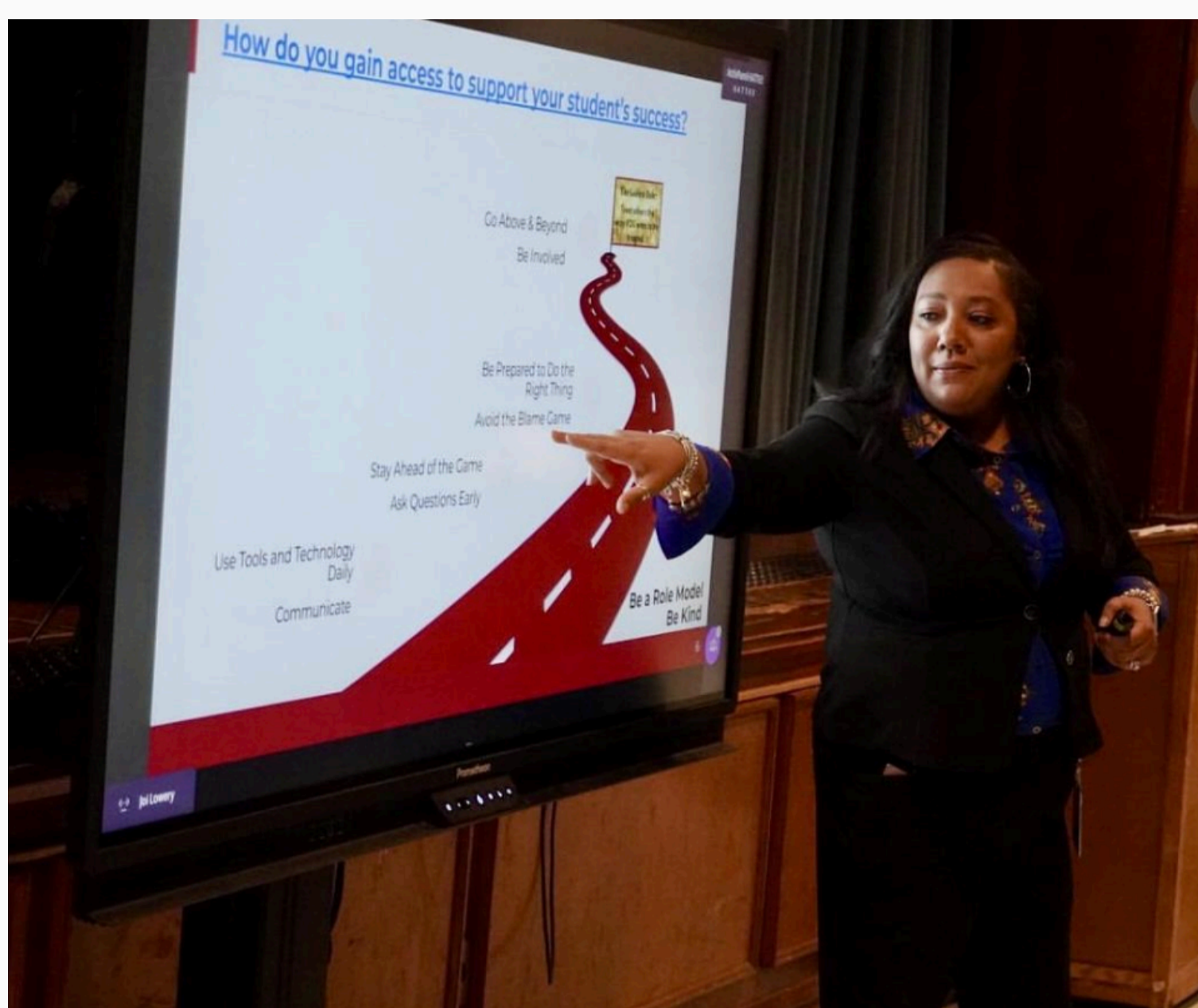
**Happy New Year, Petersburg!**  
**January 2026**

Welcome to Imagination Library's monthly e-newsletter. Below, you will find helpful information designed to keep you informed and connected to our community's ongoing work to promote literacy. We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing family of readers!

Visit our website by clicking [here](#).

**In the News**

**Imagination Library at PCPS Family Engagement University Event**



*Dr. Joi Lowery, Director of Secondary Education, presenting to parents at the event.*

Imagination Library was thrilled to participate in Petersburg City Public Schools' Family Engagement University event at Walnut Hill Elementary School. Family Engagement University is a monthly program designed to equip parents and caregivers with practical tools to support their child's learning journey. The event offers opportunities for parents to attend workshops and connect with community resources that promote positive outcomes for the entire family.

We enjoyed discussing the importance of early literacy and introducing new families to Imagination Library. Thank you to PCPS for hosting events that foster strong home-school partnerships!

To register for a future PCPS Family Engagement University event, check out the calendar [here](#). Child care, transportation, and dinner are provided.

**Notice Letters**

**Your January 2026 Reading Tip**



As you and your child are reading together, try pointing out different letters and numbers within the story. You could even turn this into a challenge. For instance, "Why don't we try to find all the A's on this page. Next time, we can try to find all the B's." Soon enough, your child will be able to take individual letters, string them together, and identify whole words. You would be surprised how each of these small steps are so vital on your child's literacy journey!

**Community Partner Spotlight**



**The Mercy Mall of Virginia**

The Mercy Mall of Virginia inspires hope by providing essential items to individuals and families overcoming the obstacles to home and life stability. They collect and distribute clothing, household items, baby care, toiletries, cleaning supplies and more. Mercy Mall of Virginia relies on donations and volunteers to assist thousands of families each year!

**Dwell Boutique & Coffee Bar** was created as an extension of Mercy Mall's mission—a place where community, generosity, and purpose come together. Every purchase and cup of coffee helps support families experiencing crises. Operated on a *suggested donation* basis, Dwell also offers its cozy space for private event rentals that further sustain the mission.

Open Monday–Thursday, 10 AM–2 PM  
 Located at 7519 Whitepine Road  
 North Chesterfield, VA, 23237.

Learn more on Mercy Mall of Virginia's website: <https://mercymallva.org/>

**We Love Our Local Libraries!**

Libraries offer a variety of resources and tools - usually for FREE! Not a member of your local library? Sign up wherever you are today.

Visit the [Petersburg Public Library](#) website.

**Is your reader eager to get their hands on more books?**  
**Visit your local library!**

Sign up for a library card to keep the reading momentum!



**Model Reading for Your Child This Month!**

**Your January 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip**



**Be a role model.**

You are your child's first teacher – meaning your child learns how to act and learns about the world, at large, by watching you. Beyond modeling the kind of values you want to pass down to them, modeling a positive relationship with reading and learning is so valuable. You have the power to establish a life-long love of stories, simply by picking up a book and sharing it with your child.

Visit this principle from **The Basics** [here](#).

To learn more about how you can **Maximize Love, Manage Stress**, [click here](#).

Early childhood organizations all around the Central Virginia have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting and caregiving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each month Read to Them will highlight tips and strategies that will assist you in creating a sturdy foundation for school readiness for our youngest citizens.

Visit [TheBasicsVirginia.org](http://TheBasicsVirginia.org) for more information.

To check the availability of Imagination Library in your area, [click here](#).



**As Dolly says, "You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children!"**



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