

AVKO Educational Research Foundation Newsletter

News from AVKO

January 23rd, 2009

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Featured Article: **Instilling Curiosity to Learn New Words**

The most important element in building a vocabulary is the desire. We are all seemingly born with an insatiable curiosity about words. But somewhere along the line, many of us become satisfied with our vocabularies and stop actively learning words. As teachers, we know that the best predictor of success in college, and indeed in most walks of life, is how well we score on a "simple" twenty-five word vocabulary test. So, if we want our students to excel, how can we re-instill the curiosity necessary to learn new words? Certainly it isn't by making students memorize a list of words and their definitions for a test on Friday....

[Continue Reading Article](#)

Dear AVKO Subscriber:

Today, January 23rd, is National Handwriting Day in honor of John Hancock's birthday on this date. Read on to see how you can celebrate this most unusual holiday and take time remember the importance of good handwriting in day-to-day life, even in the age of computers.

We are proud to announce a few additions to our [website](#), including [how to customize your Sequential Spelling program](#), information about [ordering e-book \(PDF\) versions of our materials](#), the [scope and sequence of Sequential Spelling](#), [new videos](#), [workshop recordings \(Mp3\)](#), and [new articles](#).

National Handwriting Day

What is this all about with a holiday for handwriting? Well, today is John Hancock's birthday. His signature was famous, not only for its size, but also for its elegance. Some people simply wax nostalgic for the good ol' days of pretty handwriting, but others mourn the loss of handwriting (or "penmanship") being taught in schools to the same extent as it was before. Read an article about penmanship [here](#) (from Boston.com). How can you celebrate this holiday? Here are a few suggestions on how to [celebrate National Handwriting Day](#).

In case you are in need of a handwriting program, AVKO has you covered. Our [Let's Write Right](#) program teaches a D'Nealian-like manuscript and cursive script while teaching spelling.

Does your child have a hard time reading cursive and other scripts? Consider using [Readings for Fluency](#).

Do you have a pre-K or 1st grader who is just learning to read? [Starting at Square One](#) teaches spelling, reading, and handwriting, as the alphabet is learned -- using the same Sequential Spelling approach with only decodable words.

Celebrate National Handwriting Day with a special 3 day only sale: Enter code WRITE onto the shopping cart when you place your order to receive 15% off your purchase (normal shipping applies). Hurry! Sale ends Monday night.

Kate Gladstone is mentioned in the above Boston.com article. She is an AVKO affiliate and a great resource for handwriting remediation, especially in the most severe of cases. We encourage you to check out her website, [Handwriting Repair](#).

New to the AVKO.org Website

Customize Sequential Spelling

AVKO has launched a section of the website dedicated to customizing the [Sequential Spelling](#) program to really meet your own needs. AVKO spelling is not just a static or canned program that you can buy -- it's also a process. Learn the best methods of teaching spelling in a common sense and simple way while tailoring it to meet your individual situation. Learn how to speed it up, substitute new words in, find out which word families have not yet been mastered and only learn those, increase vocabulary, etc. [Customize your program today!](#)

Scope and Sequence of Sequential Spelling

Not sure which level of *Sequential Spelling* is right for you? Generally, we recommend that everyone starts at level 1 (remember that the levels do NOT follow grade levels), but your situation might be different. Find out which word families exactly are tested on--and in what order they are presented--throughout each of the 7 levels of *Sequential Spelling*. Visit the [Scope and Sequence](#) page now.

What Are Those E-books All About?

All of AVKO's materials are available in e-book format. This means that they are PDFs, opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you are interested in saving money on shipping, saving some trees, or just want your books NOW, e-books might be for you. [Find out more about e-books](#).

Find a local AVKO retailer near you.

AVKO has many retailers carrying its materials. If you would like to support local business, especially small business, Christian-owned and homeschooling and educational supply stores, while still supporting AVKO's missions to eradicate illiteracy and problems

associated with dyslexia, shop locally.

[Find a retailer near you today.](#)

Reminders from Last Time

New video clips online:

Video clips of the two [AVKO Videos](#) are now available on the website in addition to the full videos. These clips are important sections of the videos that give you the gist of what the videos are about and show you some of the highlights.

The New Get Involved Section:

Looking for a way to volunteer and help others learn to read and spell? [Get involved!](#)

Popular Workshop Resources Now Available:

Get your [workshop handouts](#)
[Listen to full workshops](#) by Don McCabe (Mp3)

Discounts available for Clearance Items

AVKO has many of our materials available for discounts of 40-55% off because they are previous editions, slightly damaged, or the books have since gotten a new binding/cover. View the [Clearance Items](#) today to get a steal!

January's Book of the Month

January's [Book of the Month](#) is [Get Outta My Face, Get Offa My Case](#), a book designed to teach anger management and self-monitoring through careful examination of speech, body language, and emotion. Receive a 10% discount on this book if you are not a [member](#) of the AVKO Educational Research Foundation or 32.5% if you are a member.

See the [Book of the Month](#) page for more information.

Sincerely,

Brian McCabe,
Operations Manager,
AVKO Educational Research Foundation

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AVKO Educational Research Foundation | 3084 Willard Rd | Birch Run | MI | 48415