

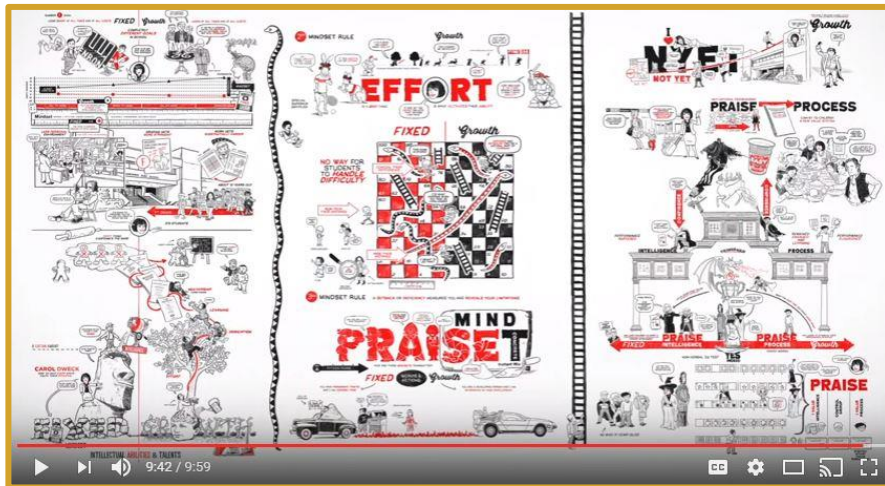
## Welcome Back!

September 14, 2016

“Mom, I really don’t like the easy puzzles. The hard ones are so much more fun. I love the challenge!”

Conversations like this with my seven-year old son let me know that my efforts to help cultivate a growth mindset are having a positive effect. I also realize that in certain situations he is still so fearful of making mistakes, of not looking smart and he worries that I will be disappointed. It’s in these moments that I know we aren’t quite there yet. As a family, we strive to face each day and each situation with a growth mindset while recognizing that we all have a mixture of both growth and fixed mindset thoughts. This recognition of our fixed mindset triggers is vital so that we have the opportunity to work through those thoughts and feelings. This journey of growth mindset development is an on-going endeavor in my household and I know it will be a similar experience for you and your students.

I hope you had a wonderful summer and a great start to the new school year! I look forward to the year ahead and the many opportunities we will have to learn and grow together. I will continue to share resources, stories from Florida educators, department happenings and we will dig in and explore even further the growth mindset concept. [How to Help Every Child Fulfill Their Potential](#) is a great video introduction or refresher for both educators and students.



Please remember that we have a variety of [growth mindset resources](#) available to you. If you have created your own tools I hope you will share them with me! I also encourage you to reach out through email or Twitter.

All the best,

Abbey Stewart

Teacher Liaison

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#FLORIDAMINDSET

## Featured Tweet



Mrs. Brugone's Class @wild4learning01 · Aug 17

It's okay to make mistakes as long as you keep trying! #FloridaMindset #week1readaloud



## Survey

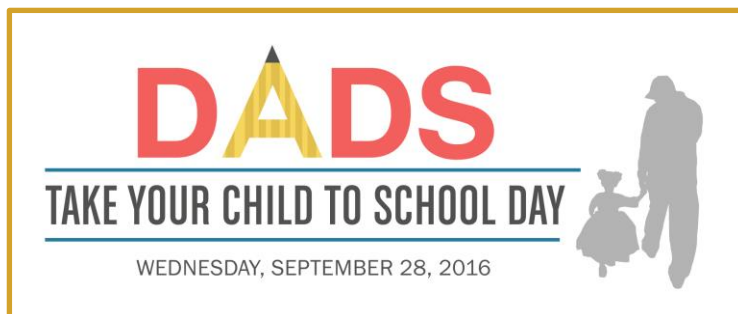
### Ask the Commissioner

We want to hear from you. Please submit a question you would like answered by Commissioner Stewart or other Florida Department of Education leaders. Please complete the short survey below in order to submit your question.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFTAsktheCommissioner>

## Hot Topics in Tallahassee

### Dads Take Your Child to School Day



For more information click [here](#).

## 2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

Visit the Just Read, Florida! website for the latest information on the ninth annual statewide *2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* events and contest. This year's theme is *Literacy Changes Our World* with a focus on civics and literacy. Schools interested in submitting a literacy-civics service project should begin planning as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity for your school to win up to \$1,000 in support of literacy. Contest details are available on the CLW website at <http://fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/celebrate-literacy-week/>.

Deadline for postmarked contest submissions is December 12, 2016.

### Spill the Water

Dear Teachers,

Each day you have the unique opportunity to educate Florida's children and protect their health and well-being. As your State Surgeon General, I want to work hand-in-hand with you to keep students safe from emerging health threats. Living in Florida, mosquitoes are seemingly part of our everyday life. However, many children don't know mosquitoes not only make them itch, but can carry diseases like Zika fever and West Nile virus. To help teach kids about mosquitoes, the Florida Department of Health has launched Spill the Water!, a kid-friendly mosquito bite prevention campaign packed with information and resources that encourage students to cover up and spill sources of standing water around their home. You can access a variety of tools and information about mosquito bite prevention for kids at [www.SpilltheWater.com](http://www.SpilltheWater.com). We have also created resources for teachers including a 30-second educational [video](#), activity [sheets](#) for pre-K through high school and a corresponding [teacher tool](#) filled with brain teasers to help you bring the message into your classroom. You are a valuable partner in our effort to teach kids how to protect themselves from mosquito bites and we hope you will utilize Spill the Water! resources with your students. We know that by teaching children we're also teaching their parents and communities. Thank you for all that you do for Florida's students.

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH  
State Surgeon General and Secretary  
Florida Department of Health