

# Building Readers for Life

Downingtown Area School District

K-5 Literacy Newsletter

Holiday Greetings!

Welcome to the Second Trimester of the 2016-2017 school year. Our goal as the Literacy Specialists is to provide you with important assessment updates, reading strategies, and resources to continue building successful readers and foster positive home and school connections.

## Screen Free Literacy Activities

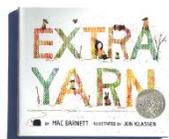
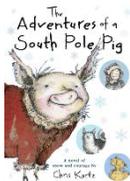
Try some of these fun activities to keep conversations going and kids thinking. Remember, thinking and discussing precede reading and writing.

- Call out when you see a store sign or traffic sign that starts with a specific letter of the alphabet, or has a certain number of syllables.
- Ask your child why they think a traffic light has 3 colors. Search Google with them to find the answer.
- Make a list of every license plate you see along your road trip. How many states ended up on your list? Can you list the capital for each one?
- Have a Spelling Bee and see who can spell the most words correctly. Choose words that match the correct difficulty level for each age of your children and don't forget the grownups.
- Have kids write down various words they see as you drive along (from billboards, bumper stickers, roadside attractions and stores, license plates, signs, the sides of trucks, etc.). Ask them to write a story, poem, or song grouping all of the words they see together. Have them read, perform, or sing their creation for everyone when they're done.

## Reading Recommendations

Extra Yarn, By: Mac Barnett (Interest Level K-2)

Adventures of a South Pole Pig, By: Chris Kurtz (Interest Level 3-5)



## Literacy Assessment Updates:

AIMS Web

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – January 13<sup>th</sup>

Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System

January 23<sup>rd</sup> – February 17<sup>th</sup>

## Looking Ahead:

PSSA Testing ELA

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>

PSSA Testing Math

April 24<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>

PSSA Testing Science

May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>



## Digging Deeper into Conversations about Books

### Grades K-2

- Tell the important things that happen in the story.
- Tell me more.
- What is the genre of the book? How do you know that?
- Tell me about a time when something like this happened to you.
- Tell the important information in the book.
- Is there anything else?
- What did you already know about this topic and what was new to you?

### Grades 3-5

- Summarize the important events in the story.
- Is there anything else you'd like to add to your summary?
- What is the genre of the book? What clues from the text help you figure that out?
- What is the message or theme of this book?
- Summarize the important information in the book.
- Is there anything else you'd like to add to your summary?
- What did the writer do to keep you interested?

## Introduce Your Child to Different Genres at Home

Expand your child's reading selections by encouraging your child to try a different genre each month. Include areas of the library such as biographies, mysteries, non-fiction titles, and more. Be sure to model reading different types of books, as well, by sharing what you're reading and what motivates you to select your books. Most children have a good understanding of fiction vs. nonfiction stories, so you can delve deeper into your genre conversations with your children. In school your children learn that fiction and nonfiction literature can be further divided into different categories or "types." These are called genres. A genre is a certain kind or type of work--be it a book, music, art or even movie.

**Non-Fiction:** Informational literature, Biography, Autobiography

**Fiction:** Fantasy/Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Poetry



## Resource Links

Book Adventure: [www.bookadventure.com](http://www.bookadventure.com)

ABCYA: [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)



## Word Wizards!

### Sight Word Concentration

- Sight words are the words that are used most often in reading and writing.
- Review sight words by playing *Concentration*. These are words that your child should know just by quickly glancing at them. Have your child write each word on two index cards. Lay out the cards face-down. Take turns flipping over two cards at a time. If the cards are the same, remove that pair. If they are different, flip the cards back over.

### Synonyms & Antonyms

- Vocabulary development is a process of acquiring new words to use in daily life, more specifically, the basis for learning any language.
- Challenge your child with this game that reviews synonyms and antonyms. All you need is one sheet of paper per player, some pencils and your brains! Together, pick a word that you both know that has several synonyms and antonyms. Write down as many synonyms for the word as you can think of in a minute. Flip your paper over and write as many antonyms as you can think of in a minute. Whoever has the most words written down picks the next word!