

Building Readers for Life



Downingtown Area School District

K-5 Literacy Newsletter

December 2017

*Give the
Gift of Reading
and Writing!*



Holiday Greetings!

Welcome to the Second Trimester of the 2017-2018 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.

Literacy Related Ideas for the Winter Break

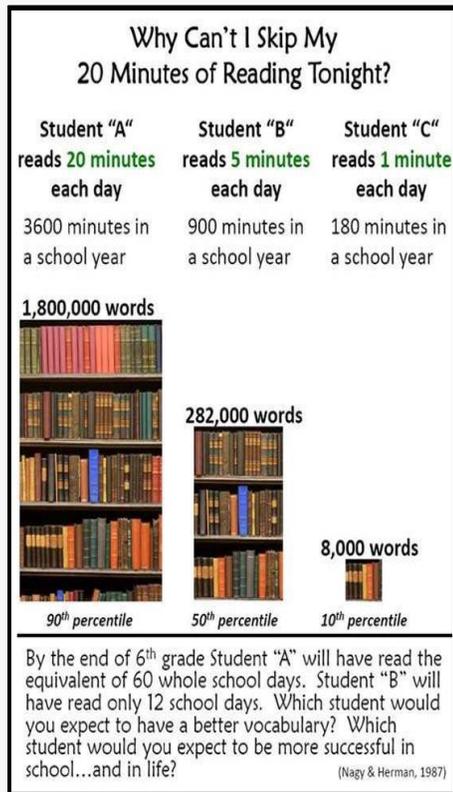
- **Write an annual family newsletter**
Gather around the computer to craft the yearly account of your family's glorious travels and news to share.
- **Plan and prepare holiday meals and food gifts**
Jotting grocery lists, calculating costs, browsing recipes, and measuring ingredients are festive ways to integrate reading, writing, and math to create tasty treats!
- **Create a movie & book club**
There is nothing like reading a great book and then snuggling up to watch the movie with a bowl of popcorn and hot chocolate!
[25 Children's Books Made into Movies](#)
- **Tickle your tongue with the lyrics to holiday songs**
Make merry with music, rhyming, and sound as you discuss the many ways families celebrate the season.

Additional Articles to Peruse

1. [Top Ten Family Reading and Writing Ideas from Reading Rockets](#)
2. [Parent Guide to Winter from Scholastic](#)
3. [5 Ways to Keep Kids Reading this Winter Break](#)

- **Magazine subscriptions**
A magazine subscription is the gift that keeps on giving! Enjoy a variety of topics in a different genre of reading.
[Ten Great Magazine Subscriptions from Barnes and Noble](#)
- **Little Passports**
Introduce explorers of all ages to geography, science, world cultures and more with this monthly subscription.
[Little Passports](#)
- **STEM Toys**
Investigate a list of the best learning toys that foster thinking, problem solving, and creativity.
[28 STEM Toys](#)
- **Writing galore**
Give your kids the power of the pencil. Have them put their thinking into words in a variety of modalities.
[20+ Writing Gifts](#)
- **Seasonal reading**
Advice for everyone on your list.
[Read Brightly's Holiday Gifts](#)

Do children really benefit from reading during the holidays? The answer is "YES!"



Excerpts from NCCAT blog post "Can Children Benefit From Reading During The Holidays?"

- The difference between reading at home and no reading at home could be as **big** as school and life success!
- Schools can help with parent training, awesome reading materials at the right level for the students and **ongoing tips** on how to create a supportive literacy environment at home.
- Children **want to** read mysteries, nonfiction, humor, fantasy, books that **DO NOT** have dorky covers, listen to audiobooks and interact with electronic books. They still want to be read to in a cozy spot.

[Click to watch a video clip!](#)

[Click here to read more!](#)

Resource Review: Read Brightly Website

Helping Parents
Grow Readers One Book at a Time

Brightly.com is sponsored by Penguin Random House and has a broad range of content for parents to navigate books for their children at all ages and interest levels. Tips and advice are provided for growing readers. Articles are included that link literacy to life. It even lists the best reads for grown-ups. Check out this visually appealing and read-worthy site!

Upcoming Assessments

AIMS Web
January 8-17

Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System
January 2-23

PSSA Testing ELA
April 9, 10, 12, 13

PSSA Testing Math
April 16, 17, 18

PSSA Testing Science
April 23, 24, 25



Cyber Corner



Storyline Online

Listen to noteworthy voices read excellent children's literature.



Tellagami

Create a quick animated video to tell a story.



Wonderopolis

Dig into a "Wonder of the Day" as a family.

Screen Time Thoughts

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that babies under 15 months should only use FaceTime or Skype.
- Do not give your children control over any device. Establish the rule that children must ask to use the device in order to monitor screen time.
- Determine where and when any device can be used.
- Remove inappropriate apps and teach children to use the device creatively.
- Share creations with family members so that it isn't a solo activity.

[Click here to read more!](#)