

# Building Readers for Life

Downingtown Area School District  
K-5 Literacy Newsletter

Hello Downingtown Families!

Welcome back to school for the 2018-2019 school year! This Literacy Newsletter will provide you with assessment updates, reading strategies, and resources to build successful readers and foster positive home and school connections.

## Create a Rock-Solid Bedtime Routine with Reading at its Heart.

Establishing any routine takes time, however, the decision to create a routine takes just a second. Creating a predictable reading routine is one of the easiest and most important steps you can take to create a literate environment for your family.

Try some of these tips to make easy reading routines for your family:

**Start when your child is an infant.** If you haven't started yet, start tonight! Children are never too little, and it's never too late.

**Take reading time into account when you are establishing bedtime routines.** If you are antsy for your child to just hurry up and get to sleep, reading will be rushed and stressful. Try to plan accordingly so you can give yourself and your child time to explore and enjoy the material.

**Make rules about how many books or chapters you are going to read.** Find what works for you, and when you do, stick with it. Bedtime negotiations are never fun. The last thing we want to do is make the experience anxiety-filled, which will cause children to relate reading with stress and anger.

**Have a book box or a special place for books.** It saves time and you don't have to spend time hunting books down after a long day.

**Let your child choose the books,** and mix it up with magazines, non-fiction and comics, too!



Edition 8

September 2018

### Important Dates:

Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

AIMS Web  
September 17-25

Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark  
Assessment  
October 1 – November 2



### September 8th is International Literacy Day!

Sit back, relax, and read a book!

You can read to your parents, friends, and neighbors. You can even read to your dog, cat, pet fish, or stuffed animal!

Use #InternationalLiteracyDay to post yourself reading on social media.

# The Reading & Math Connection



Teachers are always looking for ways to enhance student learning across different content areas. Did you know that strategies taught for reading and strategies taught to problem solve in math have many similarities? Here are some strategies we use when we read and tackle math problems.

- 1. Make Predictions:** Making and confirming predictions helps students engage closely with text. Likewise, as students solve problems, asking questions such as, "If you had to estimate, what do you think that would equal? On what ideas is your prediction based?" encourages students to think more deeply about the math they are doing.
- 2. Monitor Understanding:** This helps students check to see if they understand the meaning of the text. In math, asking questions such as, "Does this make sense?" can help students identify mistakes and correct understandings.
- 3. Determine Importance:** When students determine the most important part of the text they read, readers focus on essential ideas and build mental structure of the text. In math, students use this strategy when they ask themselves, "What information is important to solve this problem?" They can then decide which information is necessary to solve the problem, and which information is extraneous detail.
- 4. Make Connections:** When students think about how a text relates to themselves, other texts, and the world around them, they are better able to understand and relate to new ideas, problems, and characters in a text. In math, when students ask, "How is this problem like another one I have solved?" they are able to draw on methods previously used or learned to help them find a solution. In both reading and math, connections between new information and existing knowledge strengthens understanding.



## wordplay

Playing with words is a fun way to encourage children to learn and love language. You can do these five activities almost anywhere! Here are a few of our favorites:

### Tongue Twisters

"She sells seashells by the seashore. The shells she sells are surely seashells. So if she sells shells on the seashore, I'm sure she sells seashore shells."

### Puns

"Why are fish so smart?  
Because they live in schools!"

### Pig Latin

To make a word like this, follow these steps:

1. Take off the beginning consonant of the word. (Ex. **take off the "c" in cat so you have "at"**)
2. Put the "c" sound at the end of the word. (Ex. **"at-c"**)
3. Add "ay" at the end of the word. (Ex. **"at-c-ay"**)

### Anagrams

Words that can be rearranged to make new words. For example, *listen* can be rearranged to make the word *silent*. How many can you come up with?

### Charades

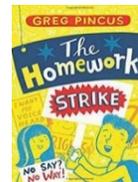
Act out new vocabulary, spelling words, or any of your favorites for others to guess.

## Reading Recommendations



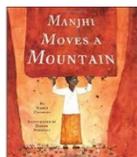
### This Book Will Not Be Fun

By: Cirocco Dunlap



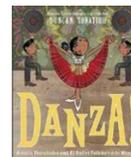
### Manjhi Moves a Mountain

By: Nancy Chhurnin



### The Homework Strike

By: Greg Pincus



### Danza! Amalia Hernandez and El Ballet Folklórico de México

By: Duncan Tonatiuh