

Building Readers for Life

Downingtown Area School District K-5 Literacy Newsletter

Holiday Greetings!

Welcome to the Second Trimester of the 2018-2019 school year. Our goal as the Literacy Specialists is to provide you with important assessment updates, reading strategies, and resources to continue building successful readings and foster positive home and school connections.

Literacy Related Ideas for the Winter Break

- **Create an annual family newsletters/scrapbook.**

Gather around the computer to craft the yearly account of your family's activities, travels, and memorable moments. Print pictures and write captions with one another to preserve the memories.



- **Plan and Prepare Holiday Meals.**

Jotting grocery lists, calculating costs, browsing recipes, and measuring ingredients are festive ways to integrate reading, writing, and math. Spending time in the kitchen is a great way to create family memories!



- **Talk, talk, talk!**

Gather around the kitchen table and share your thoughts with one another.

- What is your favorite family tradition?
- What is your New Year's resolution?
- What is your favorite vacation?
- What is your favorite childhood memory?

Snuggle Up with a Good Book

Reading together for 20 minutes a day, even after they become an independent reader, will build necessary literacy skills for student success and promote family bonding. Visit your local library often! Public libraries are great resources for books, helpful advice about authors and illustrators, story times, and more. Make visiting the library part of your family's routine!



Edition 9

December 2018

Upcoming Assessment Dates

Kindergarten through 5th
Grade

AIMS Web

January 22 - 30

Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment

February 1 – March 8

On Hand Benchmark Assessment

Grades 3 -5

February 4 – 8

PSSA Testing ELA

April 15, 15, 23, 24

PSSA Testing Math & Science

April 29, 30

May 1, 2, 3



Activities for a Snowy Day

Snowman Sequence

- List the steps for building a snowman, then go outside and create one!

Create your own Audiobook

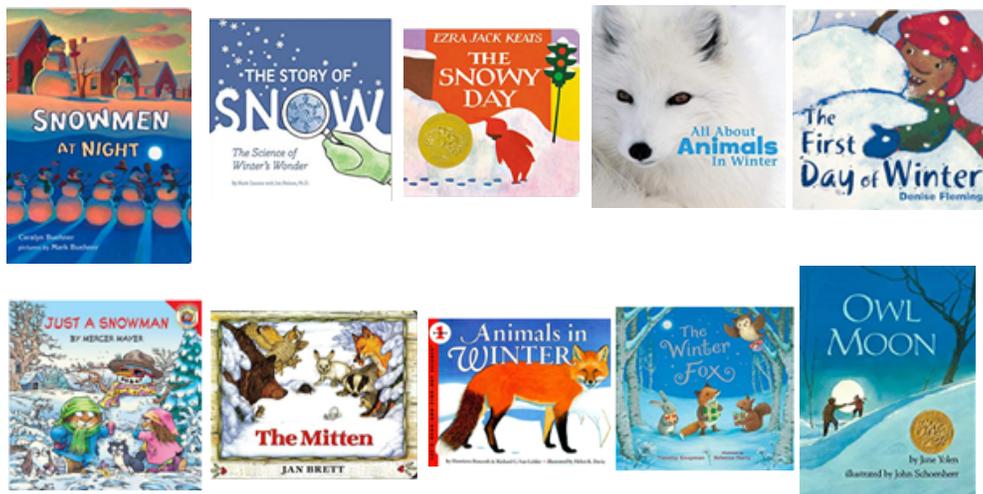
- Record yourself reading your favorite children's book, then play it for your family. Take time to talk about the book.

Make or Bake something together

- Make snow ice cream, homemade butter, play dough, finger paints, oobleck or slime.
- Bake a treat to share with your family and friends.

Play with Pretend Snow

- Put shaving cream on a cookie sheet and practice your high frequency/spelling words.



Look for new books and authors that your child may enjoy.

Organize an area dedicated to reading and writing tools, including paper and writing utensils.

Visit the library for story time and book recommendations.

Encourage your child to talk about what he's read.

Talk to your child, and sprinkle interesting words into your conversation.

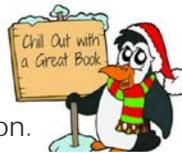
Offer a variety of books to read.

Read with your child every day.

Expand your home library to include magazines and nonfiction.

Ask questions if you're concerned about your child's development.

Decide to raise a reader!



Magazine Subscriptions

A magazine subscription is the gift that keeps on giving!

Enjoy a variety of topics in a different genre of reading. Try:

- Highlights
- National Geographic Kids
- Sports Illustrated for Kids
- Zoobooks
- Animal Tales

STEM Toys

Investigate a list of the best learning toys that foster thinking, problem solving, and creativity.

- Magna-Tiles
- Legos
- Knex'
- Gravity Maze game
- Rubix Cube
- Mix & Measure Set
- National Geographic Science set

Educational Board Games

Schedule a family game night with these fun games!

- Zingo
- Boggle
- Scrabble
- Busy Town