

Summer
Quarterly
June
2016



THE PMSD ESL CONNECTION

A Message from Dr. Catherine Sweeney

Pocono Mountain School District Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Parent Tips: Summer Reading

The summer is a wonderful time for children to read what they most enjoy, to learn new things, and to have fun!

Summer reading is also an important way to prevent kids from losing too much ground over the summer — research shows that summer reading can make a significant difference in a student's overall academic achievement, particularly when she begins a new school year in the fall.

As a parent, there are a number of things you can do to encourage your child to read and to develop strong reading and writing skills over the summer. Please visit the Pocono Mountain School District Summer Reading Activities website at the provided link:

<http://www.pmsd.org/domain/359>

At home

Make time for reading

During the busy summer months, it can be hard for you and your child to find a chance to read. Set aside a quiet time each day for reading, and remember to include "reading time" when planning summer activities.

Keep different kinds of reading materials at home

To stimulate reading at home, keep reading materials throughout the house, including newspapers, magazines, and brochures. Keep some fun things on hand too, like word games, puzzles, or the kids' section of the newspaper. This will increase your child's access to books and printed material, providing more opportunities to practice reading.

Beat boredom with books

Help your child find books that she finds interesting — especially on rainy days! These might include non-fiction books, fun fact books, arts and crafts books, hands-on activity and project books, or cookbooks with kid-friendly recipes.

Read aloud every day

Try to find time each day to read aloud to your children — even the older ones. Reading aloud benefits children and teens, particularly those who are struggling readers. Read aloud in different places, from the porch to the park. And don't be afraid to use silly voices and act out the story!

Encourage your child to learn new words

Introduce your child to new words every day. Talk about what these words mean and how they are used.

Write away

Keep writing materials handy such as pencils, paper, and crayons so that your child can practice writing. Encourage her to write letters or post cards to friends and relatives over the summer, to keep a journal, make a summer scrapbook, or to write stories and poems. Ask your child to help you when making shopping lists or copying a recipe.

At the library

Help your child get a library card

Getting your child her own library card will make her feel special, and will motivate her to use her library card to check out books or other items. Make sure she understands the library's return policy.

Visit the library frequently and look for summer reading programs

Libraries can be magical places during the summer, and they often have summer reading programs, book clubs, and events for kids like puppet shows or storyteller presentations. They also may provide age-appropriate summer reading lists. Check the local library calendar for special events throughout the summer.

Look for Spanish-language materials and programs at the library

Many libraries offer Spanish-language or bilingual books (both for children and adults), as well as a Spanish-language story hour or other reading program. Check to see what your local library has available.

Help your child select books at the right level

A good way to decide whether your child is reading books at the right reading level is to have them read a from a page in the book that they have chosen (any page but the first page). If they are reading smoothly and understand what they are reading, the book is probably at a good level for them. If they make five or more errors in a passage of about 50 words, the level may be too challenging. Librarians can also help you choose books at the appropriate level for your children.

Allow your child to choose what he reads

Allow your child to choose her own reading material, including popular fiction, magazines, graphic novels, and comic books. Summer is a time when children can discover the joys of reading, and they will be more motivated if they are reading something they enjoy. If you are concerned about the content of what your child is reading, talk with them about their interests and set some guidelines for appropriate choices.

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A Glance at ESL Around PMSD

SECONDARY NEWS

WJHS: We are winding down the year, wrapping up the last of our studies and looking forward to a restful summer break filled with a fabulous reading list. Our 8th graders are anxiously awaiting their move to the high school, and our 7th graders are excited about becoming 8th graders. I look forward to meeting the new 7th graders coming over. I wish everyone an enjoyable summer filled with an abundance of sunshine and fun! :O) Ms. Marrazzo

PMWHS: A big congratulations to all of our 2016 graduates! We hope that success and good luck follow you always. We wrap up this school year with gothic novel elements and readings. During the summer, everyone is encouraged to read and practice English!!! Relax, rejuvenate, be safe, and see you in a few months! ;)

EJHS: The 7th grade boys are reading *The Red Badge of Courage* with visual support via Gettysburg. We are also completing vocabulary and grammar packets. The 7th grade girls chose to read an anthology of short stories. They are also working with vocabulary and grammar. Everyone is excited for the summer



PMEHS: ESL in the EHS is winding down the school year. Currently the students are working very hard writing research papers on an opinion of their choice. Also, we have been reading *Moby Dick* and were preparing for Keystone exams.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

SIS: At Swiftwater Intermediate School, our students have been busy practicing their language skills. They have researched the importance of keeping our Earth healthy and have designed posters to display in our school. Also, our students wrote Haiku poems to welcome spring! It has been a wonderful, busy school year. Mrs. Malinowski and Ms. Menendez wish our students and their families a relaxing, safe summer!

CREC: CREC held their final Under the Lights celebration on April 30th. The theme was Pasta Night with Strega Nona. It was a great success. The families gave lots of positive feedback. In April, second grade went on their field trip to the Crayola Factory, and Kindergarten visited Paws and Claws Wild Animal Park in May.

TEC: The students in Kindergarten have been learning about blends and recognizing them in words. We also have been learning about the sound of long vowels. First grade students read a story titled, "The Story of a Blue Bird" and learned informational facts about birds. They also were able to choose a bird they were interested in and write facts about their bird. Second grade students have been focusing on learning about the main idea and details in stories. We learned new vocabulary words that relate to the story "Beginner's World Atlas." The third grade students participated in the PSSA's and worked really hard. Way to go 3rd grade!

SEC: Mrs. Davis's 2nd Graders studied about Maps, Globes, and Atlases. The atlases helped them tremendously with their ethnic projects that were displayed at the SEC Multicultural Luncheon in May. For 1st Graders, nature and animals were subjects they enthusiastically investigated. Kindergarteners were wide-eyed detectives finding out who lives in ponds and the life cycle of frogs. Mrs. Cooper's 2nd grade and 3rd grade has been writing poetry. Second and third grade have been working on their multicultural projects in preparation for the Annual Multicultural Luncheon. Second grade created a brochure and 3rd grade chose between a book report of a myth, legend, or folktale from their culture, or do a country research report. We are eager to share what we have learned about our own unique cultures with our peers.

CRIS: Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Garrett, and Mrs. Haggerty have been working hard with their students to wrap up the school year. They have been working on novels along with vocabulary and reading skills. Mrs. Garrett and Mrs. Haggerty want to congratulate Mrs. Gonzalez on her retirement this year! You'll be missed but not forgotten. CRIS ESL would like to wish everyone a happy, safe, and relaxing summer!



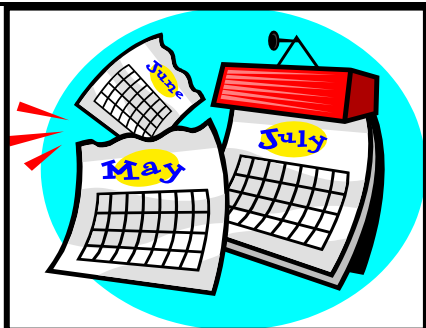
ESL STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We continue our feature in the quarterly newsletter this school year, an interview of one of the ESL teachers around the district. Mrs. Joan Brundage is featured in this issue. Mrs. Brundage is an ESL Program Specialist at the Clear Run Elementary Center. We were so happy she agreed to be interviewed for this issue of the newsletter!



1. WERE YOU NAMED AFTER ANYONE? No, My mom just liked the name.
2. MARRIED? CHILDREN? Yes, I am married. I have two children Amanda, 15 & Jacob, 12.
3. DO YOU LIKE YOUR HANDWRITING? No, I think it is sloppy.
4. IF YOU WERE ANOTHER PERSON WOULD YOU BE FRIENDS WITH YOU? Yes, I would I think I am easy to get along with.
5. DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR TONSILS? No, I had them out when I was twelve.
6. DID/ WOULD YOU BUNGEE JUMP? Never!
7. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CEREAL? WHY DO YOU LIKE IT? Life Cereal, I don't know why I like it, but I have eaten it my whole life
8. DO YOU UNTIE YOUR SHOES WHEN YOU TAKE THEM OFF? No
9. DO YOU THINK YOU ARE STRONG? Sometimes yes & sometimes no.
10. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ICE CREAM? Chocolate
11. RED OR PINK? pink
12. BLUE OR GREEN? blue
13. IF YOU WERE A CRAYON, WHAT COLOR WOULD YOU BE? red
14. DO YOU HAVE BROTHERS/SISTERS? I have one sister.
15. HAIR/EYE COLOR? I have brown hair & brown eyes
16. DO YOU WEAR CONTACTS/GLASSES/BOTH? I've worn contacts since I was 16 years old.
17. FAVORITE FOOD? Chocolate cake
18. SCARY MOVIES OR HAPPY ENDINGS? Happy endings
19. FAVORITE SEASON? Spring
20. FAVORITE DESSERT? Chocolate Cake
21. WHAT IS THE FARTHEST YOU HAVE BEEN FROM HOME? I have been to Canada.
22. WHERE WERE YOU BORN? Scranton, PA
23. WHERE ARE YOU LIVING NOW? Mt Cobb, PA
24. WHAT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DID YOU ATTEND? I attended Marywood University. I have one BS in Communication Disorders & MAT in Elementary Education.
25. HOW MANY YEARS OF COLLEGE HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH? I took me six & half year to get both degrees.
26. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TEACHING? I have been teaching for 6 years.
27. DO YOU ENJOY READING/WRITING? WHY OR WHY NOT? Reading

DATES TO REMEMBER



☺ June 3rd: Last day of school for students

☺ June 3rd: PM East High School Graduation @ 6pm, Swiftwater Campus, PMSD District stadium

☺ June 4th: PM West High School Graduation @ 10am, Sullivan Trail Campus

☺ August 29th: first day of school for 2016-2017

☺ ONGOING: Kindergarten registration for 2016-2017





Adult ESL:



Adult ESL

The Adult ESL program will end on May 27. We have had a great year helping non-English speakers and more fluent speakers increase their knowledge of the language as well as sharing community information and cultural exchanges. A big congratulations to Piotr Cyz for passing his American citizenship test! Welcome to America!!! Also, a fond farewell and thank-you to Luz Gonzalez who has assisted with the Adult Program for many years. Enjoy your retirement! For those interested, watch for Adult ESL information (dates and times) for the 2016-2017 to be distributed in September. Have a great summer!



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Find magazines that interest your child

Magazines are a great way for kids to practice reading, to learn new things, and to develop their vocabulary. You may be able to find your child's favorite magazine at the public library, or you can get a subscription at your home. To see suggestions of some good magazines for children, check out Reading Rockets' [magazine list](#) in English.

Great summer reading habits

Be a reading role model

Make sure your child sees you reading and writing, whether it's reading the morning newspaper or making a shopping list. Talk with your child about what you are currently reading, and about books you read as a child. Turn off the TV for some quiet reading time. Seeing that reading is an important part of your life will help children understand that reading can be an important part of theirs.

Keep it fun

Don't set rules about reading for a certain amount of time or reading a minimum number of pages, and don't make reading a punishment — keep it fun so that it's something that your child wants to keep doing!

Talk about what your child is reading

Talk about the books you and your child have read together — what you liked, what you didn't like, or who your favorite character was. Ask your child to tell you about what they are reading. Libraries may also offer book discussion groups for children, or online book chats with authors.

Give your child a chance to read aloud to you

Reading aloud will give your child the opportunity to practice his reading skills. Encourage rereading of favorite books they can read easily. For older kids, ask them to read you things that are interesting to them, such as the newspaper sports page, a detective novel, or a music magazine.

Listen to audio books

If you will be spending a lot of time in the car or at home, rent books on tape or CD from the library, and listen to them together. This can also be a great way to encourage language development, or to encourage children with learning disabilities to enjoy stories.

Connect books to summer activities and travel

Read books related to your summer activities and trips. For example, you might read a book about dinosaurs after visiting a natural history museum, or a story about sand castles while at the beach. Helping your child connect books with their own experiences will build their vocabulary and will make their experiences more meaningful. Older children may also enjoy helping you research your summer plans at the library or on the Internet. For more ideas on this topic, see Making Reading Relevant.

By encouraging your children to engage in summer reading activities, you will help them find lots of fun ways to use reading throughout the summer while keeping their reading skills in good shape!

Mrs. Gonzalez Retires

The ESL department will be short by one at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Luz Gonzalez is retiring and will be greatly missed! Luz has been a teacher for 35 years. Starting her teaching career in NYC, Luz joined the PMSD staff in 1998. During her 18 years with PMSD, Luz has taught grades pre-K to 8th grade and has taught within various buildings, her most recent being Clear Run Intermediate Center. In addition to being a classroom teacher, Ms. Gonzalez has also participated in numerous school programs, including the ESL Home School Connection, Adult ESL, tutoring, and summer school. Upon her retirement, Luz plans a trip to visit her home in Puerto Rico then - the adventure begins!

Congratulations, Luz! Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to our students!



ATTENTION!!!!

Pocono Mountain School District Website: ESL page update

The Pocono Mountain School District Website has been updated to include website links for students and parents to use to help the children academically at home. There are also links for parents to locate resources in the community. Some examples of the community resources include housing assistance, early childhood education opportunities, and food pantries. To visit this section of the PMSD website, go to www.pmsd.org. Then hover over the "Academics" heading until a menu with "ESL" appears. Click on "ESL" and the ESL website will open. On the left side of the page, you will see "Parent and Community Resources." Click on that to view the page with the parent and student links.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!!!



ATTENTION!

Calling all 2016-2017

Kindergarten students!

We need you to schedule your appointment to register your child!



If you have a child who meets the eligibility for the 2016-2017 school year Kindergarten class, please contact the Pocono Mountain School District Central Registration Office at 839-7121 ext. 40400 to schedule an appointment. The child must be five (5) years of age or more, on or before September 1, 2016.

After the registration process has been completed, your child will be scheduled for a Kindergarten orientation session sometime in the spring at their respective school building.

The required documents are available on-line at <http://www.pmsd.org/Page/1356>

It is strongly recommended that you complete all required documents prior to your scheduled appointment.

Pocono Mountain School District

Mission & Vision Statement

**To prepare all students for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities.*

**To create a culture of achievement, improve student performance, maintain safe schools, and promote strong character.*



Home Help Tips for Parents of ESL Students

- Establish specific routines for your child to follow.
- Practice vocabulary daily with your child using household objects.
- Read to your child daily in your native language or English.
- Practice good study habits daily. Set aside a time for your child to study on a regular basis.
- Have family meetings where your child is the leader of the discussions. Allow your child to speak in either English or the native language.
- Visit the ESL resource site at the PMSD main web page. Plentiful resources for parents to use at home are available.
- www.pmsd.org

The Pocono Mountain School District's ESL Program is a regular education program that is aligned with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's ESL standards.

A specialized, certified ESL teacher works with students in large or small groups.

A program designed to assist students with the reading, speaking, listening, and writing of the English language.

ESL is NOT a bilingual program.

