



Spring
Quarterly
June
2014

THE PMSD ESL CONNECTION

A Message from Dr. Catherine Sweeney

Pocono Mountain School District Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Parent Tips for 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.

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 library calendar for special events throughout the summer.

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 her read a from a page in the book that she has chosen (any page but the first page). If she is reading smoothly and understands what she is reading, the book is probably at a good level for her. If she makes 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.



***ARTICLE IS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

*CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Allow your child to choose what they read

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 her about her interests and set some guidelines for appropriate choices.



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.

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 she is 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 her reading skills. Encourage rereading of favorite books she 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 her own experiences will build her vocabulary and will make her experiences more meaningful. Older children may also enjoy helping you research your summer plans at the library or on the Internet.

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!



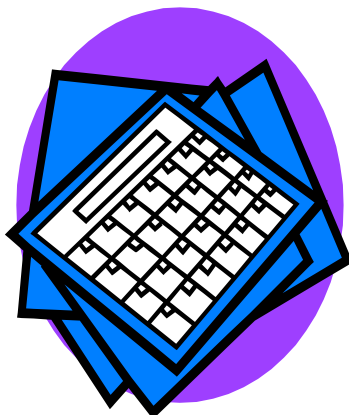
DATES TO REMEMBER

☺ **June 19th:** LAST STUDENT DAY! 3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

Have a Great Summer!!

☺ **September 2, 2014:** FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS!! WELCOME BACK!!

***Don't forget the new dress code!
See pages 4 & 5 for details!



ADULT ESL

Adult ESL closed its year with a pizza and cake celebration. We love the enthusiasm of the participants. Even the children didn't want to give up their time on the computer practicing letters and sounds! Adorable! Look for a new schedule in September!



A Glance at ESL Around PMSD

SECONDARY NEWS

WJHS: 7th and 8th grade students at the WJHS are still actively learning and engaged in reading novels. We are identifying and utilizing literary elements, strategies and skills and completing activities associated with the skills. We are looking forward to our culminating assignments and to a warm summer! Enjoy! See you in September. :O)

PMWHS: We wrapped up our school year by reading another novel, expanding our vocabulary and preparing for final exams. Students in Ms. Colyer's class wrote children's stories based on our experiences of coming to the United States. The plan is to share these stories with our elementary friends so, they may be able to relate to the feelings and experiences that we had. All wish the best of luck and success to the graduating class. May all enjoy a safe and happy summer!

EJHS: Between PSSA testing, the students read Alexander Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*. After the reading, students completed essays about selected non-fiction elements of the story and completed power point presentations of the interesting facts they learned. For the year end, our class focus will be to review the grammar skills.

PMEHS: What a few months we have had! Testing, testing, and more testing! In between the tests, the students completed two novels: *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, which was a class choice! Facing year end, we are concentrating on reviewing skills learned earlier in the school year.

- On May 27, the students stayed after school to do "Dinner and a Movie with Mrs. Mascia." This year's selection was "Hours" starring Paul Walker. We had a great time! And with a some time remaining before the activity buses arrived, we also watched the beginning of Disney's "Frozen!" The sing-a-long could be heard echoing through the Pocono Mountains! Let it go! Let it go!!!
- Did you know?? On May 7th, Maria Batista, the ESL Coordinator from Northampton Community College, visited the EHS/Michele Mascia to review the ESL programs that are now being offered at the Monroe Campus. College readiness is one of the high school goals of Pocono Mountain. Sometimes ESL students fear they cannot meet the demands of college due to language barriers. Northampton Monroe campus has brought back their ESL program to assist students in obtaining the language skills necessary for college success. They also have various programs for adults who wish to become English fluent! Ms. Batista encourages those who fear language may interfere with their college achievements to contact her! She can help create a path to success and offer financial aid advice, too!

ELEMENTARY NEWS

SIS: At SIS, we are anticipating the arrival of summer with sunny, warm days! Our students have been busy with their academic subjects and also participating in many end of the school year activities. A special thank you to our parents who have visited our classrooms to share a bit of their culture with us. We look forward to many more parent visits next year. Please continue reading with your children at home to help them become confident, fluent readers. Mrs. Malinowski and Ms. Menendez wish you all a happy and safe summer!

CRIS: The ESL students closed out their year with poetry projects, novels, and units about Anne Frank & pandas. The students in the CRIS ESL Homework Club worked hard on homework and finished their last session with a celebration at the end of May. Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Garrett, and Ms. Snipas had a great year working with all of the students & families and hope everyone has a wonderful summer! Take time to read some fantastic books during the break!! See you in September!

CREC: Students at Clear Run Elementary Center celebrated Multicultural Day on May 5. Each student had the opportunity to "show and share" an item representing his or her cultural background. Families and teachers also prepared traditional cultural dishes which were sampled by all students in our Multicultural Cafe. It was an enjoyable and educational experience for all involved!

CREC Multicultural Day



SEC: see page 6 for Multicultural Day article

New PMSD Standardized DRESS CODE for 2014-2015



Pocono Mountain East Schools Students Standardized Dress Code Shopping Guide

Bottoms:

- Dress, casual Docker ® style, or corduroy pants in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;
Length: Should meet the top of the shoe, but does not touch the floor, must be hemmed or have a standard cuff
- Dress or casual Docker ® style shorts in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;
Length: No shorter than the top of the knee cap
- Dress or casual capri style pants in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;
- Dress or casual skirt/skort in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;
Length: No shorter than the top of the knee cap

Shirts/Tops:

- Traditional 2 or 3 button Polo® style shirts (full-torso with collar) in White, Grey, Primary Red or Black
Logos: Only District or PMSD school logo/emblem permitted
- Standard oxford style shirt/blouse (with collar) in White, Grey, Primary Red or Black
Logos: Only District or PMSD school/spirit wear logo/emblem and/or school sponsored activity logo/emblem permitted. **No Brand Name logos** (i.e. Nike®).

Dresses:

- Dresses with collars, short or long-sleeved in Khaki, Black, White, Grey, or Primary Red
Length: No shorter than the top of the knee cap

Belts:

- Solid-colored buckled belts, worn at the natural waistline in Black, White, Tan, Khaki, Grey or Brown
Belt buckles must be plain, standard, and appropriate length for the waist.

Optional Apparel: For layering purposes only in compliance with identified colors (White, Grey, Black, Primary Red): Spirit apparel with the PMSD/Athletic and/or extra-curricular logo/emblem (polo, shirts, sweaters/vests, etc.) may be worn provided it meets the requirements set forth in the policy. Sport team's uniform apparel may be worn on game day only and at the direction of the coach of the team.

- Full-torso T-shirts
- Full-torso turtlenecks – mock or pullovers
- Full-torso cardigan sweaters
- Full-torso sweater vests or fleece
- Crewneck sweatshirts

Footwear: No heels in excess of 3 inches. No flip flops or bedroom slippers.

- Shoes
- Sneakers
- Boots
- Sandals with back strap
- Clogs, or Crocs

Note: Standard Dress Code apparel is available at most clothing/retail stores. If you are experiencing difficulty locating any dress code item or have additional questions, please contact the building administrator.

New PMSD Standardized DRESS CODE for 2014-2015



Pocono Mountain West Schools Standardized Dress Code Shopping Guide

Bottoms:

Dress, casual Dockers® style, or corduroy pants in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;

Length: Should meet the top of the shoe, but does not touch the floor, must be hemmed or have a standard cuff

Dress or casual Dockers® style shorts in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;

Length: No shorter than the top of the knee cap

Dress or casual capri style pants in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;

Dress or casual skirt/skort in Khaki (tan/stone), Navy Blue or Black;

Length: No shorter than the top of the knee cap

Shirts/Tops:

Traditional 2 or 3 button Polo® shirts (full-torso with collar) in White, Grey, Navy Blue or Black

Logos: Only District or PMSD school logo/emblem permitted

Standard oxford style shirt/blouse (with collar) in White, Grey, Navy Blue or Black

Logos: Only District or PMSD school/spirit wear logo/emblem and/or school sponsored activity logo/emblem permitted. **No Brand Name logos** (i.e. Nike®).

Dresses:

Dresses with collars, short or long-sleeved in Khaki, Black, White, Grey, or Navy Blue

Length: No shorter than the top of the knee cap

Belts:

Solid-colored buckled belts, worn at the natural waistline in Black, White, Tan, Khaki, Grey or Brown

Belt buckles must be plain, standard, and appropriate length for the waist.

Optional Apparel: For layering purposes only in compliance with identified colors (White, Grey, Black, Navy Blue: Spirit apparel with the PMSD/Athletic and/or extra-curricular logo/emblem (polo, shirts, sweaters/vests, etc.) may be worn provided it meets the requirements set forth in the policy. Sport team's uniform apparel may be worn on game day only and at the direction of the coach of the team.

Full-torso T-shirts

Full-torso turtlenecks – mock or pullovers

Full-torso cardigan sweaters

Full-torso sweater vests or fleece

Crewneck sweatshirts

Footwear: No heels in excess of 3 inches. No flip flops or bedroom slippers.

Shoes

Sneakers

Boots

Sandals with back strap

Clogs, or Crocs

Note: Standard Dress Code apparel is available at most clothing/retail stores. If you are experiencing difficulty locating any dress code item or have additional questions, please contact the building administrator.

Yay to SEC's Multicultural Luncheon!!!

What was that mouth-watering aroma in the halls of Swiftwater Elementary Center on June 6th? It was the annual celebration of foods from around the world. Parents, grandparents, and siblings of our ESL program students visited the school, bringing in specialty dishes from their cultures. Treats included pierogies, empanadas, kielbasa, many kinds of rice platters and meats. The array of desserts came from Poland, Colombia, Palestine, Egypt, Puerto Rico and China. Some families stayed the entire afternoon to provide information about their recipes and the special occasions when the dishes are prepared back in their native countries.

On display were projects which the students had researched on their cultural backgrounds and native languages. New friends were made last Friday and hopefully will last throughout the coming years. As we see every year, we all smile in the same language. This year was no exception. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, and other loved ones for the delicious meals that were brought in and shared among all of our SEC ESL families. See you next year!!!



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.

