



Spring
Quarterly
April
2014

THE PMSD ESL CONNECTION

A Message from Dr. Catherine Sweeney

Pocono Mountain School District Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Even if a child is motivated to read, supporting them with a variety of ways and options will keep their momentum going. Here are 7 tips to open up the wonderful world of reading for a child.

- **Reading Tip for Parents: What's "Just Right"?** Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are "just right." But how do you find a "just right" book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that he cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. Choosing the right book will help your little reader feel successful.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Map it Out** It's important to provide your child with a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading. A fun way to do this is to get a map and show them the way from your house to the grocery store or another familiar destination. Have your child write out the directions, street by street, and then read them to you as you walk or drive to the store -- like a living GPS!
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Card Tricks** Do you think effective reading only takes place at libraries and book stores? Think again! There are reading opportunities everywhere. Go to a greeting card store with your child and read the greeting cards together. Later, vote for the ones whose words convey the best birthday wish or get-well sentiment.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Picture This!** During your next outing or gathering, take action-packed photos, then have your child create captions to go with each picture. Assemble the pictures and captions in a picture book or album, and add speech and thought bubbles to create a personalized -- and probably hysterical -- graphic novel.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Last Comic Standing** Take time to read comic strips together. Share favorites from your own childhood and have your child put his favorites on the fridge. Read them aloud, and often -- repetition is a great way to build reading skills. Soon, he'll love looking forward to the "Sunday funnies" each week.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Become a Fan** Your child will soon develop a love for particular authors and illustrators. Nurture her fan-ship by helping her write a letter to her favorite author. Many authors have their own websites with contact information, but here's a great place to start your search (<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/authors/all.htm>). You can also contact the book's publisher, the mailing address for which can often be found on the back of the title page or on the publisher's Web site.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Labels of Love** Word recognition and vocabulary are important parts of reading. On a rainy day, get some paper and tape and start labeling everything in your home -- from furniture to small knick-knacks. Reading these labels repeatedly will build your child's mental word bank. If your family is bilingual, create labels in both languages.

DATES TO REMEMBER

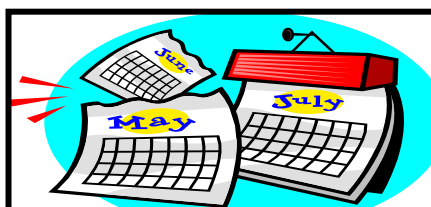
☺ **May 7th:** Act 80 Day—3 Hour
Early Dismissal

☺ **May 26th:** Memorial Day—Schools
Closed

☺ **May 27th:** Schools Reopen

☺ **June 19th:** LAST STUDENT DAY!
Have a Great Summer!

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



A Glance at ESL Around PMSD

PMWest High School : Happy Spring! We are glad to have completed ACCESS testing and are sure our scores will reveal English development due to our hard work and efforts. In class, we continue to expand our vocabulary and implement newly learned words when speaking and writing. Focus has been on composing various types of paragraphs and what we have accomplished is reflected in our work. As busy as we are, reading is never neglected and we carry on exploring the various novels available to us. Looking forward to a positive ending to this school year!

CREC : CREC's Kindergarten ESL students have been busy completing many spring time activities such as planting seeds and learning the life cycles of different insects. First grade ESL students just finished a story called On the Job With Dr. Martha Smith. They learned many interesting things about animals and about working in an animal shelter. Our second Grade ESL students just finished reading their second play of the school year The Pine Park Mystery. The play was enjoyed by all. Multicultural Day is planned for May 5th we can't wait!

EJHS: The students are reading Robinson Crusoe with an anchor activity based on Amelia Earhart. It has been interesting discussing survival and the technological advances between the eras. Add in the recent news of the missing airline and the classroom has been abuzz! At this time we are also busy completing PSSAs with the Writing and Science sections yet to complete. Their grammar workbooks are complete so focus skills will be the new homework.

PMEHS: East High completed their reading of Monster by Walter Dean Myer. The final exam is an opinion paper with supporting details that states if justice was served. We continue to discuss the American justice system. It's interesting to hear them fight over the concept of "fair" and apply the law to their beliefs. Keystone testing will occurring again in May. Tutoring continues for Keystone achievement or with me for content support. Finally, the Seniors must complete their senior research projects. This is a graduation requirement!!!! We have been in the library to work on this project. The library is now available on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for those who wish to stay to complete the assignment (This is a recent change of days).

SIS: At Swiftwater Intermediate School, we are anticipating the arrival of spring with sunny, warm days! Our students have been busy with "reading, writing and arithmetic" and also participating in many school-wide activities such, as Minute to Win It, Faculty vs. Students Basketball fundraiser, Willy Wonka play practice, and the SGA is planning another food drive for the Pocono Pantry. In addition, we will be welcoming more parents to visit our classrooms to share facts, music and foods from their families' home country.

TEC: ESL students worked hard on their PSSA's last month. All students were encouraged to do their best on their test. All of the students continue to work hard in all of their academic areas. Keep up the great work!

WJHS: WJHS 7th and 8th graders have started reading a novel focusing on many reading and language skills. Students are responding in their journals, increasing their vocabulary, and completing projects both individually and cooperatively. Students will also be studying poetry and creating their own springtime poems.

SEC: The students in Mrs. Davis's ESL classes at SEC have been writing about many different events this past winter. The 1st and 2nd graders stretched their imaginations to write about what sport they would pursue to participate in the Winter Olympics when they grow up. They also discussed how they would train and what equipment they would need. Chinese New Year gave them the opportunity to create a story about the animal whose year it was in the Chinese zodiac when they were born. They shared details of their winter holiday celebrations and what they do when they vacation with their families in the winter and summer. The Kindergarteners made up new stanzas for the Hickory Dickory Dock rhyme and wrote about "What happened after the clock struck one?" Here is a picture of when they played a Spring Scramble Sentence game where they put words together to make sentences.



A Glance at ESL Around PMSD—continued

SEC continued: Cooper's ESL classes at SEC have been in a writing whirlwind lately! All of our writing reflects themes and skills related to the stories we are reading and takes us through the writing process.

Kindergarten class have written and illustrated stories about what to do to cool off on a hot day to review cause and effect and visualization, and a trip to the market to review visualization and setting. We also wrote and illustrated a parallel story to Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, and A Walk in the Jungle to review onomatopoeia. Our Story was called "Red Fox, Red Fox, What Do You Hear?"

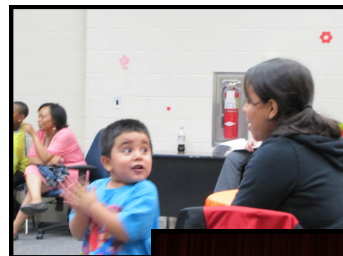
1st grade has written an illustrated "Want Ad" posters for a good neighbor, and a "Lost Pet Poster," a "5 Senses Springtime Poem," and "The Family Member I Most Admire" to review descriptive writing and adjectives. We also wrote a "Pen Pal Letter" to review how to write a friendly letter. We wrote "If I Had a Robot" and "My Magic Hat" stories to practice writing a fantasy story.

2nd grade wrote a Tongue Twister to review alliteration, a Postcard, a Friendly Letter in the viewpoint of a character, a descriptive Acrostic Springtime Poem, and a Diamante poem to review antonyms and parts of speech. In addition we did a research report on an ovipator (egg laying animal).

CRIS ESL & PTO Sponsor: Lisa Facciponti

On Tuesday, April 15, 2014, CRIS welcomed Lisa Facciponti to perform for all of the students during three different assemblies throughout the day. The event was sponsored by the CRIS ESL Department and the CRIS PTO. Parents of the ESL students were invited to attend the assemblies to promote family literacy.

Ms. Facciponti is a storyteller, drummer, dancer, and a teaching artist listed on the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts roster of qualified teaching and performing artists.. Her imaginative and creative storytelling techniques helped to establish a sense of wonder in the students. Lisa reminded all present to maintain their love of reading, their culture, and, language. Through motion, voice, and action, Ms. Facciponti demonstrated the gift of storytelling—bringing cultural stories of Native Americans, South Americans, Ukrainians, and others to life—keeping everyone's attention by involving the audience members!



Adult ESL

CRIS ESL HOMEWORK CLUB

Our last few dates are: April 29 and May 6 & 20. We meet at CREC at 6:00-7:30. Our latest focus has been on irregular verbs and spelling rules for suffixes. Let's check your knowledge! Is it 'canceled' or 'cancelled'? See you April 29th for the answer!



ESL students in grades 3-6 at CRIS have had the opportunity to participate in an afterschool homework club throughout this school year. The students meet after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to work on homework and finish classwork assignments with Ms. Garrett and Ms. Snipas. Transportation has been the responsibility of the parents, but students have been attending week after week! In addition to homework, students are getting to develop friendships with students in other grades and from other cultures they might not routinely see throughout the day. Students have an opportunity to interact and earn rewards for completing their assignments. It has been an exciting first year for the CRIS ESL Homework Club!



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.

