



Southmoreland Primary Center

January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year from SPC! I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing and safe holiday break. SPC is ready to leap forward into 2019 and to continue our mission of High Quality Learning for All. We are excited to tell you that we have been recognized as a National Model of a Professional Learning Community for the fourth year in a row and that we have applied to be a 2019 National DuFour Award School which is to be given to three National Model of a Professional Learning Community schools in the nation. This award recognizes schools that are successful in collaboration and student learning from all across the country.

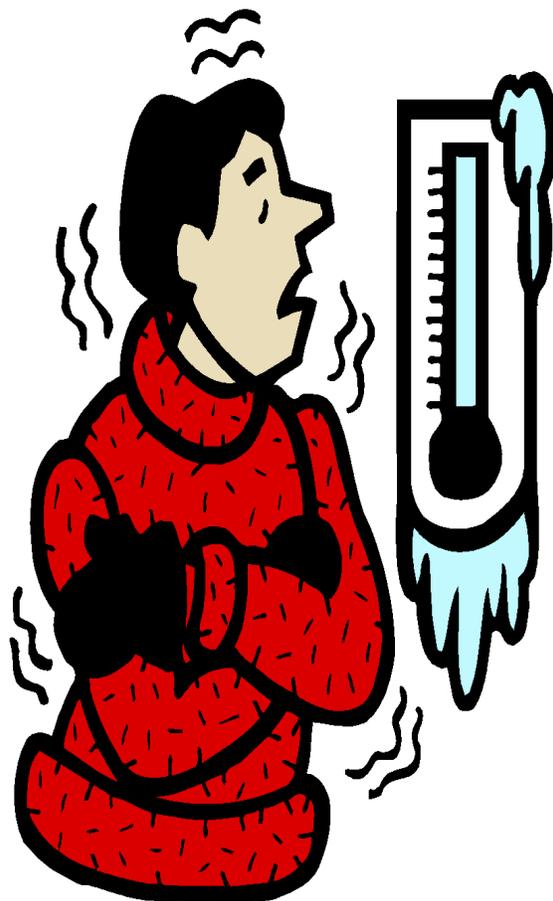
December was a wonderful time here at SPC. Our students learned many new concepts and we enjoyed our traditional holiday caroling on Fridays. Sadecky Puppets visited us, we had our Santa Breakfast, built our gingerbread houses on our SHS Reading Buddies visited with us as well. It was a very busy month!

In January, we are planning to see our Reading Buddies here to open the new year . A reminder that there is **no school for students** on January 21 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). Also, as we move through the winter months, please check for updates on delays and cancellations. Information on where to find delays and cancellations can be found in this newsletter. If you would like email, text or phone messages about our weather cancellations and delays and have not registered for them, please contact the school for information about our SchoolMessenger service.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children. We are proud to be a part of their first formal learning experience. I wish you and your families a very happy 2019.

Respectfully,

Mr. Clara
Principal, SPC





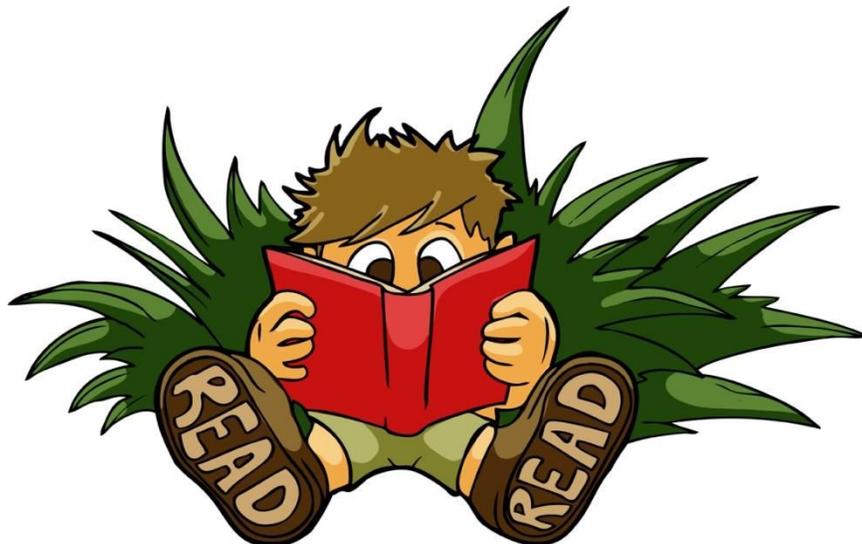
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First Grade Reading for Your Child

First grade reading is an important time to figure out the look and sound of words. Help your child with first grade reading tips.

By Anne Becker Schwartzberg

First grade reading is one of the most exciting learning periods for your child. She is going to match letters to sounds (a process is called *decoding*), see patterns in the spelling of words, and learn to correctly pronounce words. By the end of first grade reading, she will recognize many words and be able to read easy books by herself. An entire universe of new words, sentences and stories is waiting for your child. Help her navigate the journey with these first grade reading tips.



Read and Re-Read

Help your child's first grade reading by having him re-read favorite books and poems. Seeing the same words over and over helps your child build word banks in his mind so he'll recognize them more quickly in different contexts. Here are a few more ways to help build these mental word collections:

- Help your child create his own silly poems or rhymes using words from his favorite books.
- When you're reading these books aloud, take turns reading each page.
- Have your child illustrate his favorite parts of the book.
- Once he is very familiar with the book, have him read it to younger siblings or friends.



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Give It Time

Your child is performing a very complex task of recalling sounds that letters make on their own, then blending those sounds together. Give her plenty of time to sound out words, and step in to help only after she's tried a few times. Learning anything new involves being slightly uncomfortable at first, but once she's got it, she'll be brimming with confidence and skill. Try these tricks to enhance first grade reading.

If a whole word is difficult for your child to understand, use an index card to cover up the latter half of the word and have her sound out only the first part. Once she says the first part correctly, cover that part up and have her sound out the rest. Choosing books that are "just right" during first grade reading will enhance her reading skills by keeping a variety of mildly challenging words flowing through her mind.

Ask your child's teacher for book recommendations throughout the year since her skills will be growing, and book interests changing.

Write On!

Writing during first grade reading helps your child practice sound and letter patterns as well as fine motor coordination. Try some of these activities to enhance first grade reading through writing:

- Have your child create short lists of important words from his favorite books. Compiling these words will help your child internalize them better.
- Ask your child to help you write the grocery list, weekend to-do list, or a letter to a relative or friend. Be sure to have crayons and thick writing tools on hand for your little scribe.
- Journal with your child. Encourage him to draw pictures of people, places and things he likes to think about, and then label the pictures.

RE READ!



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Cancellation or delay of school takes place only during extraordinary circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. The administration is aware of the hardship which can be caused by an abrupt cancellation; therefore, school will not be canceled unless a significant safety risk exists.

It is important that you share a **plan of action** with your child for such situations. Review this information with the child periodically. This information should include: what the child should do in the event of an unexpected early dismissal, cancellations and other emergencies, where the child should go (for example. neighbor, friend, grandparent), if they are to call someone, and also inform the school via the teacher and office. At this point a note will be made on the emergency office card.

Parents should listen to WCVI Connellsville (1340 AM); WPQR Connellsville (99.3 FM); WHJB Greensburg (620 AM - 107.1 FM); KDKA Pittsburgh (1020 AM); 3WS Pittsburgh (94.5 FM); WTAE Pittsburgh (1250 AM); Channel 2 (KDKA-TV), Channel 4 (WTAE-TV), Channel 11 (WPXI-TV), or Scottie (Southmoreland) Channel 39 or on HD 202. **If you would like email, text or phone messages about our weather cancellations and delays and have not registered for them, please contact the school for information about our SchoolMessenger service.**

Notification of scheduled early dismissals will be reported in the Principal's Newsletter and/or monthly calendar.