

LUNCH BUDDIES

WELCOME BACK!!!!

The Children

- Some things in which I want you to be aware?
 - The children in our program are struggling in some way. Please take a few minutes to welcome them warmly and talk to them about their week.
 - If your student is reluctant to talk, try some starters such as:
 - What was the best thing that happened?
 - What was the worst thing that happened?
 - Did you take any tests? How did they go?
 - Have you read any new books?
 - Let me tell you something about my week.




The children chosen for this program will remain in this program until they leave Rutherford UNLESS we have difficulty finding a Buddy for them. They usually will not be dismissed due to behavior problems or reading progress.

Reading Progress Reports will be shared with you and your buddy this year. Goals to work on will be identified for you. Students will be made aware of both level of reading and skills needed to progress. We will work together to increase reading skills and levels.

The Grown-ups

- Are Our Greatest Resource!
 - You make a difference in the future by forming a relationship with this child.
 - You have been faithful to your buddy and to the program.
 - You may be the one constant for your buddy.
 - You make them look forward to Tuesdays!!

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- You are not working alone. I will be available to help you with:
 - reading levels
 - goals and skills to teach
 - how to teach them
 - Books, or other materials, to use

The Program

- This year we will have 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders participating in our program.
 - 2nd graders will meet in the library or art room.
 - 3rd graders will meet on the stage.
 - 4th graders will meet in a classroom (tbd)
 - 5th graders will meet in the library or art room.

The Schedule

- Tuesday September 29th – Training and Meet Your Buddy week
- Tuesday October 6th – First Day of Lunch Buddies
- Tuesday November 3rd – NO SCHOOL/NO LUNCH BUDDIES
- Tuesday December 22nd – Christmas Tea
- Tuesday December 29th – NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK
- Tuesday April 12th – 2nd grade only; SCHOOL WIDE PSSAs/NO LUNCH BUDDIES for 3rd, 4th or 5th grades
- Tuesday April 19th – 2nd grade only; SCHOOL WIDE PSSAs/NO LUNCH BUDDIES for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades
- Tuesday April 26th – NO SCHOOL/NO LUNCH BUDDIES
- Tuesday May 10th – LAST DAY OF LUNCH BUDDIES/SPECIAL LUNCH WITH BUDDIES



- SNOW/WEATHER DELAYS –

If there is a 2 hour delay, we will have Lunch Buddies.
If you do not feel that you are able to travel safely,
please let me know.


If school is cancelled, we will NOT have Lunch Buddies.


CHANGES!?!

- Big buddies and little buddies
- Results of questionnaires (HUGE THANK YOU!!)
 - More training in the teaching of reading
 - More consultation time
 - Better selection of books
 - Goal setting
 - Keep a reading log to encourage
 - Smaller groups in each reading area
 - Sharing about reading and generating more interest
 - Better communication with teachers
 - Keeping the experience positive!!


Guidelines

- A regular schedule and a reliable volunteer are essential to the success of the program.
 - Each Tuesday morning (around 9:00 am) you will receive an email letting you know if your buddy is at school that day.
 - Please let us know as well if you are unable to attend.
 - readstrong2000@gmail.com
 - Or text 717-951-0646
 - Please let me know via email if you would prefer to receive a brief text .

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- Every child needs to be safe.
 - As a volunteer working in the school, you will need to provide state and federal clearances.
 - Please provide Beth with a copy of your clearances.

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- Your buddy may share personal information with you. If what your little buddy shares makes you think that your buddy may be in danger or in an abusive situation, you are now (as of January 2015) required by law to be a “reporter” of suspected abuse.
 - A site that will give you very clear information regarding your responsibilities is:

<http://reportabusepa.pitt.edu>

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- It is best for you to stay with your reading group as much as possible. At times you may need to be alone with your buddy. Protect yourself and your buddy by thinking about your situation and doing what you can to make the situation safe (ie leave a door open, choose a spot with other adults in the vicinity, etc.)


As best practice, do not touch your lunch buddy. (High fives or handshakes are exceptions.)


REMINDERS (and some changes)

- Lunch Buddy time is about reading. You may read to your buddy while he/she eats and then your buddy should also spend some time reading to you.

- CHANGE!!!!!!
- From last year - You are the only gift that your buddy needs. The program is built on the joy of reading and sharing a book together. Material gifts aren't necessary and can shift the focus from the relationship to one based on materials. Giving gifts can also lead to jealousy and can make other volunteers and family members uncomfortable.
- This year – We will be beginning a “sponsor a child” donation on our website. If a child is sponsored, he or she will receive a book a month.
- You may purchase a book for your buddy if you choose.
- Please be discreet in presenting it.


- The relationship that you develop with your buddy is unique to the time that you spend together at Rutherford. The program encourages you to be a part of your buddy's life for a number of years and we understand that a strong relationship may form. However, it will be best to continue this relationship within the parameters of the meeting time. Contact outside of school and outside of the program, where you would be responsible for the student, is discouraged.

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- Parents are informed of the program and their child's participation. They are given your name so that they know who this person is when their child shares at home. Parents are also invited to attend a session to meet their child's adult volunteer.

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- Lunch Buddy program is very exciting and we want you to be able to talk about your experiences. However, please keep confidentiality foremost in your mind before sharing. Make sure that you share only a first name of your buddy. Do NOT share any details about home, grades, behaviors, abilities. Be respectful of your buddy and his/her family.

WHAT IF ???

- My buddy needs to use the restroom during our reading time?
 - Students will be encouraged to use the restroom before and/or after their reading session. If an emergency arises, restrooms are in either hall.

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- There is a fire drill during our reading time?
 - Quickly and quietly move out the nearest doors. Last person should make sure that lights are off and doors are closed. Walk to the playground. Students should join classrooms so that teachers can include them in classroom head count.

What else can you do for ReadStrong?

- ReadStrong Group is so thankful for your time and attention to these wonderful students.
- Talk to your friends about our program. Many volunteers have signed on because of your recommendations.
- Like us on Facebook so that your Facebook friends will see what we are doing. Look for yourself on Facebook throughout the year.
- Go to greatnonprofits.org Search for ReadStrong Group. Write a review.
- Donate to ReadStrong as part of your charitable giving. Watch our website for a “Donation” button as well as “Sponsor a Child” button.



- C'mon Buddy!! Let's Read!!

Staff

- ReadStrong2000, Executive Director,
Beth Gallagher
 - Email readstrong2000@gmail.com
 - Phone 717-951-0646
- Rutherford Principal – Deron Doi
- Rutherford Secretary – Amy Fuller