

LUNCH BUDDIES



The Program

- What is Lunch Buddies?
 - ▣ Lunch Buddies is a weekly reading/mentor program pairing one student with an adult volunteer.
 - ▣ The goal of our program is to provide an enjoyable one on one reading lunch hour one time a week with a student and an adult who is focused entirely on him/her.

□ Benefits to Child


- Learn that reading is fun and become more enthusiastic about books and learning.
- Be exposed to new places and ideas through the reading materials that are shared with volunteers.
- Improve reading, listening and vocabulary skills.
- Discover the world beyond school by spending time with a professional adult.
- Gain self worth and confidence, knowing that volunteers make time for them and enjoy being with them.



□ Benefits to Volunteer!

- Give to their community and make a difference in the future.
- Form a meaningful and rewarding relationship with an elementary student.
- Make a connection with our local schools.
- Become more positive, confident and optimistic about our future and in turn the world.

- Who participates in the program?
 - ▣ Second graders are first introduced into this reading program. Second graders are old enough to eat lunch independently and young enough to appreciate this special time.
 - ▣ Students are chosen by teachers and administrators of the school as determined by need. (Need may be behavioral or academic (reading))
 - ▣ It is our hope that students chosen to be part of the program will meet with their same Lunch Buddy until they move to Middle School.

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- When does the program happen?
 - ▣ Lunch Buddies meet every Tuesday for about 45 minutes.
 - ▣ Lunch Buddies program will run from October to May.

2015-16 Lunch Buddy 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.

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
 - Also please let me know (via email) if you need to have a quick text. 717-951-0646

When you get to the school...

- Go to the office and show your badge (or driver's license), sign in and pick up a ReadStrong badge.
- Pick up your buddy's reading folder and go to your reading area for the day.
- Get comfortable and wait for your buddy to arrive with his/her lunch.


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- When your buddy comes in, talk to him or her for a few minutes about school, friends, hobbies or interests. As you get to know your buddy better you may be able to begin to talk about problems that he or she is having.
 - As your buddy eats lunch, read to him/her.
 - When your buddy finishes eating, have your buddy read to you.

Keep your buddy and yourself safe!

- 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.

- 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.)

Develop a relationship with your buddy

- Please feel free to talk with your buddy about school, friends, etc. Home is an important part of your buddy's life and certainly can be talked about. However, remember that buddies' homes and families may not be the same as yours. (ie May be best to talk about who lives in your house rather than who is in your family.)
- If you feel that your relationship is not developing or beneficial for both partners, please let your volunteer coordinator know.

- 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 might have responsibility 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.


Increasing Reading Skills


- Reading materials are provided by students or the school. It is acceptable for you to bring an appropriate book or story to share.
- You will be given support in choosing appropriate reading materials for your buddy as well as some goals and how to work on them with your buddy.
- You will be provided with reports on your buddy's progress and reading level.
- If you have questions about your buddy's reading or behavior, please share them.

- 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 wants to call me by my first name?
 - ▣ You can decide what your buddy will call you. Introduce yourself on your first meeting and then encourage your buddy to use that name. It is recommended to use *Miss, Ms, Mrs* or *Mr* as a form of respect.
- 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 closest doors. Last person should make sure that lights are off and doors are closed. Continue onto the playground. Students should join classrooms so that teachers can include them in classroom head count.

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- What should I wear to the Lunch Buddy program?
 - ▣ Please wear clothes that are comfortable and appropriate for a school setting. Remember, you are a role model for your buddy.

What else can you do?

- 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