iLit Family Letter

Grade 7, Unit 6

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

In Unit 6 of the iLit program, your child is engaged in many learning activities that support mastery of the English Language Development Standards (ELD Standards) and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (CCSS for ELA). The ELD Standards and the CCSS for ELA are aligned. Accordingly, aligned ELD Standards and CCSS for ELA for this unit of instruction are cited together in parentheses within this letter. ELD Standards are cited first, and CCSS for ELA second.*

During Unit 6, students read the biographical narratives from *At the Edge: Daring Acts in Desperate Times* by Larry Verstraete (PI.7.6; RL.7.10). This book tells thiry-six true stories about people who made key decisions in critical circumstances. These people performed heroic acts and showed great courage and strength. They all took chances when faced with life-threatening situations. As students read these emotional accounts, they explore this question: *What makes some people push the limits?*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.7.6; RL.7.10, RI.7.10) in Unit 6. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.7.6; RL.7.1, RI.7.1), summarize a text (PI.7.6; RI.7.2, RL.7.2); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.7.6; L.7.4); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.7.12; L.7.6); and demonstrate an understanding of verbs (PII.7.3), word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.7.8; L.7.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.7.7; L.7.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.7.11; W.4.1, L.7.1), and identify text structure (PII.7.1; RI.7.5). Students also write an explanatory essay (PI.7.10; W.7.2) and present it to an audience (PI.7.9; SL.7.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the unit literature (PI.7.1, PI.7.5; SL.7.1).

To support your child's learning during this unit, here are some suggestions for at-home activities:

- To help your child expand his or her thinking about the unit theme, discuss examples of people you know, or have heard about, who have taken chances, such as people rescuing other people from a house on fire, or after an earthquake. Talk about how these men and women took risks and why they pushed the limits.
- Compile a list of the words your child has learned in the last week or two. Encourage your child to use a dictionary to look about definitions of the words or a thesaurus to look for synonyms and related words and then to share what he or she learned with you.
- During this unit, your child will be writing an explanatory or informative essay. Ask what the topic of your child's essay is and what information he or she wants to share with an audience. Pose questions about the topic that may stimulate your child to provide more detailed information.

Thank you for your support of your child's learning.

Sincerely,

*To read the cited English Language Development Standards, please refer to the ELD Standards document for your child's grade, which you can access using this link: https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx

To read the cited Common Core State Standards for ELA, please refer to the document "Common Core State Standards, English Language Arts and Literary/History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects." You can use the following link to access the document: http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/

iLit inspireLiteracy

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