iLit Family Letter

Grade 6, Unit 2

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

In Unit 2 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 2, students read the novel *Saint Louis Armstrong Beach* by award-winning author Brenda Woods (PI.6.6; RL.6.10). This novel tells the story of Saint, a boy who earns money playing the clarinet. Hurricane Katrina is about to hit New Orleans. Saint decides to stay in New Orleans with his stray dog Shadow. He soon realizes that the situation is very dangerous and he and Shadow have to take shelter in a neighbor´s attic. Saint has to use all his confidence to survive and help the others. As students read this engaging story, they explore this question: *What is our place in nature?*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.6.6; RL.6.10, RI.6.10) in Unit 2. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they identify theme, plot, and characters, and cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.6.6; RL.6.1, RI.6.1); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.6.6; L.6.4); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.6.12; L.6.6); and demonstrate an understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.6.8; L.6.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.6.7; L.6.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.6.11; W.6.1, L.6.1), and identify text structure (PII.6.1; RI.6.5). Students also write a narrative essay (PI.6.10; W.6.3) and tell a story to an audience (PI.6.9; SL.6.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the unit literature (PI.6.1, PI.6.5; SL.6.1).

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

- Ask your child to retell a portion of *Saint Louis Armstrong Beach* or another text that was read aloud in your child's iLit class. As your child retells the story or shares information in a text, ask questions to clarify points that are confusing or seem to be missing from the retelling.
- At the end of each week, ask your child to identify the new words he or she has learned. Encourage your child to use the words in sentences of his or her own.
- During this unit, your child will be writing a narrative essay. Ask about your child's essay, including who the characters are, what the setting is, and what the problem or conflict is at the heart of the story. Inquire about why your child selected this particular story to write about.

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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