iLit Family Letter

Grade 8, Unit 5

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

In Unit 5 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 5, students learn the characteristics of a multi-media research project and how to conduct research using reliable sources. In preparation for their own research project, students read several articles, including "Phobias: Beyond Fear," a description of some of these strong fears and methods for treating them, "Got Butterflies? Find Out Why," a description of stress and the feelings people have when they are stressed, and "Telemedicine," about medical consultations and procedures that use telecommunication systems (PI.8.6; RI.8.10).

As students read and discuss nonfiction texts (PI.8.6; RI.8.10), they ask questions about the information; identify the main idea, supporting details, and structure of the texts; cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.8.6; RI.8.1, RI.8.2, PI.8.5); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.8.6; L.8.4); and acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.8.12; L.8.6).

For their own multi-media research project, students work collaboratively to create a news report (PI.8.2; W.8.6, W.8.7). As they work on the project, they gather, analyze, and organize relevant information (W.8.8). Students then present their project to an audience (PI.8.9; SL.8.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the texts and articles they use as models and reference for their research (PI.8.1, PI.8.5; SL.8.1).

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

- Ask your child to describe texts that are being read aloud in class. These texts serve to inform students about the research process and research writing. Encourage your child to describe what he or she has learned from these models and how that can be applied to his or her research project.
- Watch or listen to the news with your child. While doing so, note one or two challenging or unfamiliar words that are used. Ask your child what he or she thinks each word means based on the context in which it was used. Then have your child use a dictionary to check his or her understanding of the word.
- Ask your child to describe the topic of the multi-media research project he or she is working on with other students. Ask about the research sources that the group is using to gather information, as well as the various media formats the group is using to display information, for example, print, audio, images, and video.

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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