iLit Family Letter

Grade 8, 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 *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* by Cynthia Levinson (PI.8.6; RL.8.10). This book tells the story of The Birmingham Children's Crusade. In May of 1963, in Birmingham, Alabama, more than 4,000 black students, from elementary to high-school age, marched to meet the city's mayor and speak to him about segregation. Many students were arrested. The book focuses on the experiences of four of the children who participated in the march. As students read about that moment in history, they explore this question: *Does conflict ever make things better?*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.8.6; RL.8.10, RI.8.10) in Unit 6. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.8.6; RL.8.1, RI.8.1), summarize a text (PI.8.6; RL.8.2); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.8.6; L.8.4); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.8.12; L.8.6); and demonstrate an understanding of verbs and verb phrases (PII.8.3), figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.8.8; L.8.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.8.7; L.8.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.8.11; W.8.1, L.8.1), and identify text structure (PII.8.1; RI.8.5). Students also write an explanatory essay (PI.8.10; W.8.2) and present it 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 unit literature (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 retell a portion of We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March 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.
- Read a book to your child, have your child read a book to you, or take turns reading a book together. Pause occasionally to discuss what you have read.
- 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.w

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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