iLit Family Letter

Grade 8, Unit 1

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

Your child will be using the iLit ELL program for English language development. The iLit program is a digital program that helps students improve in all aspects of English language acquisition. The goal is that students will reach the English language proficiency level for their grade within twelve to eighteen months of instruction.

In the first unit, which is five lessons long, your child will be introduced to how iLit instruction works, to how assignments work, and to various other features of the program. As iLit is introduced, your child will engage 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 Unit 1 are cited together in parentheses within this letter. ELD Standards are cited first, and CCSS for ELA second. *

During Unit 1, students read the first chapter of an exciting novel called *Mudslide* (PI.8.6; RL.8.10). This novel tells the story of a family that gets caught in a mudslide while on a hiking trip. Students will use the novel *Mudslide* to help them understand how to maneuver through a digital book and how to use different text features that are available to make the text more accessible to students. Although your child will only read the first chapter in class, the book is available in the iLit Library if he or she wants to read the rest of it.

Students will also learn the features of Interactive Reading, which is one type of assignment in iLit. As they read, they will learn how to answer comprehension questions using the drag-and-drop and highlighting tools in iLit (PI.8.6; RI.8.10). They will also summarize the text (PI.8.6; RI.8.2) and learn how to use the built-in features of iLit to write and revise summaries (PI.8.10; W.8.4). Finally, students write in response to a Read Critically prompt in order to deepen their understanding of the text (PI.8.11; W.8.9).

Students also complete other iLit assignments, including writing a narrative paragraph (PI.8.10; W.8.3) and making connections to a text in order to better comprehend it (PI.8.6; RL.8.10). In addition, they learn a variety of iLit routines to aid in activities such as collaborative conversations with peers (PI.8.1; SL.8.1) and oral presentations (PI.8.9; SL.8.4).

The iLit program offers several ways in which teachers can assess your child's instructional needs. TELL, a diagnostic assessment, determines students' language proficiency at the start of the program, monitors progress at mid year, and measures language proficiency growth at the end of the school year. GRADE, another diagnostic assessment, determines each student's reading level at the start of the program, monitors progress at mid year, and measures reading growth at the end of the school year. Unit Benchmark Assessments determine students' acquisition of the skills and strategies taught during each unit of instruction, and periodic short Reading Checks provide information on students' reading comprehension. Use of these assessment tools generates detailed information about your child's strengths and needs

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

- Ask your child about the book that he or she is currently reading during independent reading time, including the reasons why your child chose the book. You may then wish to take your child to the local public library to find books on the same topic or by the same author.
- During this unit, your child will write a paragraph about a first day of school. Ask your child what he or she wants to share with an audience. Pose questions that may stimulate your child to provide more detailed information.
- Ask your child to identify a new word he or she has learned. Encourage your child to use the word in sentences of his or her own.

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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