PARENTS AS READING PARTNERS

2015 PARP TOOLKIT SUPPLEMENT

New York State PTA PARP Award Winning Program from

Bridgeport PTA
Central Region

“Kingdom of Character, Where Royal Readers are Leaders”
Goals

The overarching goal of our Bridgeport Elementary 2015 PARP program was to promote reading as a life-long activity and habit. We aimed to foster a love of reading within each child and engaged families and our community in this effort. Our program utilized age-appropriate and hands-on learning to facilitate literacy.

The students decided on an attainable school-wide goal of reading 2500 books during the three week PARP program. Children were encouraged to read with their family members. The student body at Bridgeport worked together as a team to reach 2500 books, while each family set personal, at-home reading goals.

Another goal was to create an enjoyable and educational reading experience for the students, staff, and families. Family members came to school to read with their children and other students. Staff also created special reading times and places for independent reading.

Finally, it was vital to incorporate environmental and cultural aspects into the PARP activities.

Implementation

Planning & Theme

Official planning for Bridgeport Elementary’s 2015 PARP program began in October 2014. A PARP committee was formed, comprised of school faculty and staff (including our principal) and PTA members. The committee first developed program goals as discussed above.

Next, our theme, “Character Kingdom” was created with its corresponding slogan, “Welcome to the Kingdom of Character, Where Royal Readers are Leaders.” The theme centered around our goals and school’s five Character Education Pillar Words: Courage, Respect, Kindness, Responsibility, and Perseverance. As students read more and more books, our PARP mascot, Muscles the Monkey, earned character awards.

Subsequent meetings addressed planning PARP’s activities and other aspects of implementation.

School Environment Transformation

The Friday afternoon prior to program commencement, the PARP Committee and entire school staff worked tirelessly to create our Kingdom of Character. The school’s entrance became a royal foyer with flowing red and black banners boasting our program’s slogan. School hallways became kingdom corridors and classrooms became magical spaces that promoted reading. A golden throne was set-up in the library and a
special reading nook provided inviting spaces to curl up with a good book. Our school’s enchanting décor set the tone for our motivating and enriching program.

Opening Day

Our 2015 PARP Program began on Monday, January 12th with a captivating opening ceremony. During the assembly, all Bridgeport students learned about PARP and its goals. Students heard about upcoming events and contests and how each one could help Muscles the Monkey earn various character awards by reading each day. Later that same day, students learned about the benefits of reading in an interactive and motivating presentation by ventriloquist/educator Sylvia Fletcher. Sylvia shared that she had honed her craft by reading books and stressed that reading can open doors to one’s dreams. She also showed the school a book she wrote. By the end of Day One, students were very excited about PARP.

Reading at Home – The Challenge

The cornerstone of our PARP program was the promotion of reading with family members. Our PTA began by providing each student with a new book to take home. Brochures were also sent home with information about our program and how to set a family reading goal. Reading scrolls provided a place for students to record their progress with their families. In addition, the completed scrolls allowed us to measure progress toward our school-wide goal of reading 2500 books.

Reading at School

Each morning during our program, students read silently for fifteen minutes. In addition, a group of parents served as “Buddy Readers” by reading one-on-one with students in the library. Furthermore, select community members came to school each Wednesday afternoon and read to various classes. Some of our distinguished “Community Readers” included the Chittenango Central School District Superintendent, Director of Special Education, Middle School Principal, Middle School & High School Guidance Counselors, and Assistant Middle School Principal.

Author Visits

In previous years we’ve enhanced our program with an author visit. This year we were excited to enrich our students’ experience with exposure to two published authors. We experimented with a new, efficient, and increasingly popular format – author Skype visits. Our kindergarten through second grade classes met author and illustrator Dan Yaccarino and even got a sneak peak at his latest book. Our third through fifth graders
interacted with author Lisa Graff, who discussed the process of writing a book and her path to becoming an author.

Family Fun Night

Our Royal Tea Family Fun Night was a huge success. The school cafeteria was alive with students and staff dressed in regal attire. Families gathered and visited the photo area – complete with thrones, the King and Queen of Reading Respect, and Muscles the Monkey, our “Prince of Pillar Words.” The craft area was stocked with three different projects, including make-your-own crowns and shields. Refreshments included snacks, juice, and hot chocolate. Teachers set up a book exchange for families to pick up free books. In another room, our Scholastic Book Fair offered new books for sale. Finally, families enjoyed some royal fun and games in our gymnasium, playing Ring the King and Joust the Royal Knight. It was a great gathering and a wonderful time to celebrate PARP and family reading.

Coloring & Bookmark Contest

Students in kindergarten through second grade participated in a castle coloring contest. Third through fifth graders created Kingdom of Character bookmarks. A winner was selected from each grade and awarded a medieval-themed certificate.

Spirit Days

Our first spirit day was “Read to Your Favorite Subject Day.” Students brought their favorite stuffed animals to school and read to them during silent reading time. Our second spirit day was “Royal Crown Day” and students were able to wear their handmade crowns to school. Our third spirit day was “Royal Red Clothing Day” and everyone wore their red school spirit t-shirts.

Closing Ceremony

On the last day of PARP, our school gathered for a closing ceremony. It was announced that the students had met their goal of reading 2500 books! As a result, Muscles the Monkey had earned all five character awards. In celebration, students and staff enjoyed mini ice cream sundaes.
Cultural Arts Connection

Medieval times and the arts provided a cultural connection and context. Children learned about medieval art in art class and studied the medieval culture through their art projects. In the mornings, children also listened to medieval music before the school day began. In addition, teachers intentionally selected books to expose students to a variety of cultural components and character-related themes.

Participation

Our school community excels in the area of participation. Every PARP event was well-staffed and well-attended. Our principal, every teacher, staff, community leaders, and even administrators from other Chittenango Schools had roles in the Kingdom of Character. Our PTA was also fully engaged and supportive.

Evaluation

The goals set by the PARP Committee were definitely accomplished, and the 2015 PARP program was a huge success. Our goals were measured and evaluated through open-dialogue, surveys, participation at events, and reading logs.

The staff had a morning meeting to discuss the three-week program and every member felt that it had successfully engaged the entire school community. The PTA had a meeting after PARP and evaluated the program as well. Staff and parents were present, and the group provided positive feedback.

A survey was sent to families in the Bridgeport Elementary district. The survey measured participation and inquired about family enjoyment of PARP 2015. Overall, parents/guardians and their children were very pleased with the program. In addition, our survey sought to assess our initial goal of promoting reading at home. Parents agreed that PARP had motivated their children to read more – even after our formal program had ended.

As previously mentioned, the school-wide goal was for students to collectively read 2500 books. This goal was clearly met and measured by reviewing the student reading logs. In fact, the total number of books read was just shy of 3000! This was quite an impressive achievement for a student body of just over 200.

Future program growth and improvement includes increasing the number of buddy readers, involving more family and community readers, and adding a June mini-PARP to promote summer reading. Staff agreed that creating a school-wide summer reading program with specific goals would be a valuable extension of the program.
Dear Parents,

We are very excited that you and your child will be joining us and our PARP mascot, Muscles, in our Kingdom of Character, where Royal Readers are Leaders! As always our goal is for students to spend time reading at school as well as at home with families.

This year to record the books that children have read at home we would like you to fill out a reading scroll. Please fill out a reading scroll each time you and your child complete a book or a chapter. Please cut out your completed scrolls each night and return them to school the following day. Reading scrolls will be collected and counted daily at school to measure our success with achieving our school wide 2,500 book challenge. As always we appreciate your continued support and wish you happy reading in the weeks to come!

Best regards,

Muscles the Monkey
Prince of Character
How to get involved with PARP

Book Buddies
Volunteer to spend some time reading with a student at Bridgeport. Book buddies help students to build their confidence in reading and provide positive literary experiences. If you are interested in being a book buddy please contact the office at 687-2280.

Set a Family Reading Goal
Take time during PARP to read as a family. Consider setting a goal as a family to read each night. Be sure to record the books/chapters each child reads on a reading scroll. Please send in a cut out completed scrolls each day.

Family Fun Night
On January 22nd, we will be having a family fun night to celebrate PARP. There will be musical activities, crafts, and refreshments. If you would like to help out, please contact the office at 687-2280.

The Bridgeport PTA
Proudly Presents
Parents as Reading Partners

“Welcome to the Kingdom of Character Where Royal Readers are Leaders”

Bridgeport’s 2,500 Book Challenge

January 12th-30th

CHARACTER KINGDOM
About PARP

Parents As Reading Partners or PARP is a PTA sponsored program created to develop a reading partnership between school and home. Multiple studies have shown that children who read at home are better prepared to read at school. The PARP committee asks parents to help their children see that reading is an enjoyable and educational experience.

During PARP, families are encouraged to read every night. A reading “scroll” will be sent home for students to record the books that they have read. Classes will keep track of the books read at school.

Our PARP theme for 2015 is “Welcome to the Kingdom of Character, Where Royal Readers are Leaders” During PARP this year, students will again be reading with Muscles the Monkey to achieve a school-wide goal of reading 2,500 books. A kingdom theme reinforcing our pillar words will be incorporated into our PARP 2015 program. We have several exciting lessons and activities that will promote reading along with good character.

Be on the look out for PARP related flyers regarding spirit days and PARP events. If you have any questions or would like additional information on PARP visit Bridgeport’s Webpage or contact the school office.

Thank you and happy reading!

Dates

January 12
- PARP Kickoff
- Bookmark & coloring contest begins

January 16
- Spirit Day: Read to your favorite royal subject (bring your stuffed animal to school)

January 21
- Book Fair 1/21-1/22

January 22
- Family Fun Night/Book Fair 6:00-7:30

January 23
- Spirit Day: wear your royal crown to school (hat day)
- Bookmark & coloring contest entries due

January 30
- Spirit Day: wear your royal red clothing
- PARP ends
Welcome to PARP 2015
January 12th - January 30th

First and foremost, I want to thank many people who have helped to get our PARP program up and running this week.

- A huge thank you to Sherry Czarnecki, who coordinated all the props and kept everyone focused this week.
- Our paraprofessionals really stepped up this week and every free moment they had was used for painting, cutting and folding. (Helen and Eileen your fingers must be sore.)
- Cathy Giacona, who took home some of our props to work on during the evening hours, not to mention all the time spent in PARP headquarters this week.
- Kelly Seale, your graphics are once again, just wonderful.
- Deb Major, who has become one with the Cricut.
- Lorraine Butler, who got our books ready to hand out and our book logs ready to send home.
- Brendon Willey, putting together our calendar and program of events to send home with our students. Who will also be working over the weekend to prepare our Keynote.
- Tracy DeMario, who has planned and continues to prepare for our opening ceremony.
- Stacie Schrider and Rob Preston, can’t wait to see you Monday morning presenting Muscles to our school.
- Carie Gregory, preparing early for the crafts on family night to ensure all the materials are ordered and here on time.
- Lynn Young and Stacie Schrider, getting the book exchange up and going.
- Juli Pace, working with our students all week on castle projects.
- Mary Ruthven, freeing up as many instructional aides as possible to help prepare for next week. I know you covered many students this week.

I know many more people were involved and I thank you all. This is what makes Bridgeport such a great place to work.

Attached you will find our calendar of events.

Community Readers: I will be contacting you as to when and if a community reader will be in your room on our Community Reading Days.

Buddy readers: Readers will also be in our school during silent reading to read with students. Most of our Buddy Readers will be parents. I will send them to classrooms during silent reading time to read with a student/students of your choice.

Remember Silent Reading is silent reading for everyone. Please make sure you find a classroom to read in each morning. No students should be in the hallways during this time.
Welcome to our Kingdom of Character
Let it now be known,
That Muscles, our Prince of Pillars
is in line to take the throne.

You, our royal subjects,
All have a role to play,
Together we must READ, READ, READ,
Each and every day!

If we meet our 2,500 book challenge,
Royal readers we all will be,
And Muscles will become the KING of CHARACTER,
For READERS are LEADERS, you see!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye,
Our reading challenge will now start,
So follow each proclamation below,
Using your head, hand, and heart!

**PILLAR WORD PROCLAMATION 1**
When we read 500 books,
Muscles will earn the KINDNESS CREST,
And he will wear it with great pride,
Upon his royal chest!

**PILLAR WORD PROCLAMATION 2**
1,000 books we must collect,
So Muscles can earn the RUBY of RESPECT
To help him attain this royal jewel,
We must read at home and school!
PILLAR WORD PROCLAMATION 3
We can not give up!
This we all know,
So let's read 1,500 books
To make Muscles' PERSEVERANCE PENDANT glow!

PILLAR WORD PROCLAMATION 4
Whether reading throughout our castle,
Or reading around the globe,
When we've read 2,000 books,
Muscles will receive the RESPONSIBILITY ROBE!

PILLAR WORD PROCLAMATION 5
Together we must have COURAGE,
To help Muscles earn his royal and COURAGEOUS CROWN!
So let's reach our 2,500 book goal,
and not let Muscles down!

READERS ARE LEADERS,
And ROYAL READERS are we,
Did we meet our 2,500 book challenge?
Did we lead Muscles to a victory?
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<td>Spirit day; Wear red character ed shirts</td>
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- PARP opening assembly 8:00
- Ventriloquist in Cafeteria 3-5 10:00-10:45
- K-2 11:00-2:00
- PARP kickoff w/ Sylvia Fletcher - Schedule TBA
- Book logs go home
- Silent read 8:50-9:05
- Book Fair (sign-up in the office)
- 3-6 Author Skype (Lisa Graf)
- Schedule TBA
- Community Readers Schedule TBA
- Silent read 8:50-9:05
- Book Fair (sign-up in the office)
- Family Fun Night 6:00-7:30 (sign-up in the office)
- Silent read 8:50-9:05
- K-2 coloring contest due 3-6 bookmark contest due
- Silent read 8:50-9:05
- Spirit day: Hat day!
- Silent read 8:50-9:05
- K-2 Author Skype (Lisa Graf)
- Schedule TBA
- Community Readers Schedule TBA
- Silent read 8:50-9:05
- PARP closing assembly @ 8:00
- Spirit day; Wear red character ed shirts
# COMMUNITY READERS

## January 2015

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PARP Bookmark Contest 2015
Grades 3-5

Contest Rules:

- Use this entry form to design a bookmark to go with the PARP theme: *Help Muscles reach his goal of becoming the “King of Character”*

- Create your design using crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

- Please do not use any glue.

- One winner will be selected from each grade.

- Please do not cut the bookmark out, it must be attached to the entry form.

- All bookmark designs must be turned in by **Friday, January 23rd**.

Name: ____________________________

Teacher: __________________________ Grade: __________________________
PARP Bookmark Contest 2015
Grades K-2

Contest Rules:
• Use this entry form to color the castle below.
• You can use crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
• One winner will be selected from each grade.
• Please do not cut the castle out, it must be attached to the entry form.
• All castles must be turned in by Friday, January 23rd.

Good Luck!

Name: ____________________________

Teacher: __________________________ Grade: __________________________
2015 PARP Family Survey

The PTA would like all of you to take a minute and tell us about our PARP program at Bridgeport Elementary. Please return the survey back to school, addressed to the PTA. Thank you for your time. The feedback will help us to improve our program every year.

1. Did you participate in the Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Program?

2. If yes, how were you involved?

3. If not, would you like to participate next year?

4. What did you like about our PARP Program?

5. What would you like to see different or changed with the PARP Program?

6. How did PARP influence your desire to read with your family on a regular basis?

7. To what extent did your child enjoy this year’s PARP Program?

8. How would you agree with the following statement? Please circle one option.  The PARP Program motivated my child/children to read more, even after the three week program had ended.

   Disagree  Not Really  Neutral  Somewhat  Agree

Thank you very much for responding to our survey!