PICK A READING PARTNER

2017 PARP TOOLKIT

New York State PTA PARP Award Winning Program from

Dodge Elementary PTA
Nassau Region

Super Dodgers!
APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Please complete and attach this sheet to your application. (This is the first page of your application.)

Please type or print information clearly (other than signatures)

Contact Person (one contact only) David Hemmer Title PARP Chair

Address 30 Opal Ct., East Amherst, NY 14051
Note: Winners will be notified during the summer months. Please use an appropriate summer address.

Email Address dhemmer@math.buffalo.edu

County Erie Signature

PTA Region (see website for region map) Western

Daytime Phone 716-645-8775 Evening Phone (If different) 716-688-8418

Submitting Group Dodge Elementary PTA

Theme/Title of PARP Program Super Dodgers!

PTA INFORMATION

If a PTA unit, please also complete the following:

PTA Name Dodge PTA Unit Code # (choose region from drop-down choices) 19—242

School Name Dodge Elementary School

Name of PTA President Dawn Fletch & Andrea Navis

Phone Number 716-639-7561 Email Address ptadodge@gmail.com

Signature of PTA President

Region your unit is located Western

Please note: Entries become the property of NYS PTA and will not be returned. Other materials included, that are not part of the above listed materials, will not be considered.
NYS PTA 2016 PICK A READING PARTNER (PARP) AWARD APPLICATION

DATA INFORMATION SHEET

Please complete and attach this sheet to your application.
(This is the second page of your application.)

Theme/Title of PARP program Super Dodgers

Name of School (or Library) Dodge Elementary School

Name of School District Williamsville

Grade levels participating in PARP program K-4

Total number of students in participating grade levels 500

Estimated number of students participating 500

Length of program (weeks/months) 9 months

Budget Information:
A PARP program can be supported by PTA funds or other means. Below we are looking for what funds you used to run your program and how you used those funds. The funding of the PARP program breaks down as follows (please list all that apply and be as detailed as possible):

Income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTA/Organization's Budget</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>$_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Organization/Business (Please List)</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Title I funds</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School librarian discretionary money</td>
<td>$_____</td>
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</table>

Total $1650

Expense:

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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author/Programs</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you gifts, reading night</td>
<td>$120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation to NURT</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total $1420

Total Cost of Program $1420

Application Checklist
- Application Cover Sheet (Page 1)
- Data Information Sheet (Page 2)
- Responses to Category Areas 1-3 (Pages 3-6)
- Supportive Materials (Pages 7-21)
- Sent to Region Director – must be postmarked by June 15, 2017 (see NYS PTA website for address)

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January 2017
1. **GOALS:** Our yearlong PARP program had the following goals:
   - Encourage a culture of reading at Dodge, one that supports our teacher’s efforts in educating our children and one that enriches families’ lives.
   - Empower students to share what they read, both in writing and orally.
   - Involve students at all ages and reading levels by rewarding not just students who read an exceptional amount, but struggling students who make exceptional effort.
   - Involve parents and other reading partners in their students’ reading without overburdening them.
   - Communicate our efforts in a variety of mediums, including written notes to parents, email, social media, and through displays in the school.
   - Work collaboratively with the school’s teachers, administration and literacy team.
   - Expand participation from and improve on our 2015-16 program.

2. **IMPLEMENTATION:** Our 2015-16 yearlong “Dodgecraft” program was a huge success. It coincided, perhaps not coincidentally, with a dramatic year over year increase in ELA scores at Dodge, both nominally and in comparison with other schools in the district. We decided to build on this success with a new 2016-17 theme of “SuperDodgers,” with the hope that superheroes would resonate with all students. Planning began early in the summer of 2016 with our team consisting of Brandon Morrisey, the school librarian, and seven dedicated parents. Before school began, we had a performance of the Niagara University Repertory Theatre, sponsored by PARP, presenting short plays based on some of our favorite books. NURT is scheduled to return again this August.

To inform parents of our plans, and recruit volunteers, we gave short presentations at each grade-level open house during the opening weeks of school. Below we describe some of the events we sponsored throughout the year.

**Fall kickoff week:** During the first week of October, we ran a book giveaway that allowed each student to select up to two books to take home and keep. We used book drives, book sales, donations by local businesses and yard sales to assemble more than 1000 quality books, from picture books to chapter books. Students were thrilled to be able to select two books each to keep. Later in the year, we held a book donation drive at Dodge and another at Casey Middle School to replenish our supplies for next year. We actively seek out donations from local garage sales. Our teachers and staff are also very generous with their book donations.

**Kickoff assembly with Mr. Morrisey and Mike Randall:** We wanted a splashy kickoff event to invigorate students and explain the many PARP initiatives we had planned. Our librarian Mr. Morrisey and a large student cast gave a performance with music, dancing and a presentation that clearly laid out student expectations for how to participate in PARP’s “SuperDodger” program. Local celebrity Mike Randall’s “Reading is Magic!” show wowed the students.

**Family Reading Night:** On December 1, we hosted a spectacular new event, “Super Dodgers Family Literacy Night.” Twenty teachers and staff came out on a cold evening to offer reading
groups and workshops that cover cool new reading apps, news sources for kids, read their favorite books, and much more. Some teachers read their favorite books. Others ran workshops on literacy related topics. The events ran three times in parallel, so students and families could attend multiple sessions. The library was open all evening for students to check out extra books. Finally, the cafeteria was open with food trucks on hand. More than 300 participants came out and the feedback was outstanding. We plan to make this an annual event.

**Book reviews:** A signature part of our PARP initiative was to get students to not only read, but to write about what they had read and share it with their peers. To track student reading and create a visual representation of their hard work, our PARP team created review sheets that the students could submit. Review sheets included room for an illustration as well as guidance for how reading partners could help with the younger grades, and guidance for the older students to discuss themes, characters, settings and plot of reviewed stories. These sheets folded up to create a little book! Examples are included in the supplementary materials. Students passed in reviews by dropping them in our Super Dodge Man character, pictured in the extra materials.

To broaden participation we offered research booklets to encourage writers that may be more interested in relaying factual information, rather than their opinions about a book. This also encouraged more nonfiction reading. However, we wanted to make our PARP program not just about writing, but to refocus on reading. We also wanted to promote the “Reading Partner” aspect of PARP. Our SuperDodger bookmarks (see supplementary materials) were our attempt to integrate all of these ideas, and encouraged collaboration between students and partners. These proved very popular, with more than 350 turned in during the year.

**Prize giveaways:** Every two months we tallied all the reviews, research reports and bookmarks that were passed in. In the morning before school, our PARP Prize Patrol came to each class and students were able to pick out small prizes. More than 300 students won prizes during the year.

**Wall of Fame:** During each cycle, we chose about a dozen outstanding reviews for the Wall of Fame. Posters with the students’ pictures and their review were hung outside the library. These posters showed off the students’ fantastic writing, promoted the books reviewed and created a culture of reading.

**Kids Reading on the Announcements:** Wall of Fame writers were invited to read their reviews on the morning announcements. PARP volunteers called parents notifying them of their child’s achievements. Parents were invited to attend the day their child read their report. Children were provided a “Super Dodger” cape to wear for the day. This allowed for the child to be recognized by their peers throughout the school as well as promote the reading program. We had 100% of our Wall of Famers want to read on the announcements, and it became a badge of honor at the school. Parents reported that their students were reading and writing reviews to be selected for the Wall of Fame. In addition to reading on the announcements, the kids wore the Super Dodger cape for the day. They became mini celebrities for the day.
Letters Home: Wall of Fame reviewers received a letter and certificate. These letters were a great way to inform parents of how hard their child was working. They aided in fostering reading confidence and enjoyment. Indeed, students who received these letters home in the first round of reviews often submitted numerous, fantastic reviews in subsequent rounds.

Exceptional Effort Readers: Even with reviews, research books and bookmarks, we knew that we were not reaching all students. So, using Google forms, we gave teachers the chance to nominate readers putting in exceptional effort. These students also received prizes.

Pizza Hut “Bookit!” The Pizza Hut “Bookit” program was included as an incentive for students to complete their classroom reading logs. If a student completed their reading logs for the month, they received a coupon for a free pizza. The teachers felt like this was a great incentive to ensure widespread completion of reading logs. Teachers gave this program rave reviews.

Darien Lake: Darien Lake, a local theme park, encourages reading by providing children free admission when they reach a specific reading amount within a predefined timeframe. The PARP team coordinated our participation in this program. More than 100 students completed the required reading.

Super Dodgers Super Reading Week! We ended our year with a “weeklong reading explosion” (Calendar in the supplemental materials.) This included events every day:

a. UB Lady Bulls visit: Athletes from various women’s teams at University at Buffalo visited to read to the students and answer questions.

b. Read in the Aud: Reading opportunities were offered for students during lunch. Students who finished lunch were able to select a book and read in the Auditorium with parent volunteers.

c. Author visit: Dee Romito visited on Wednesday to read from her book “The BFF Bucket List”. Additionally, Ms. Romito afforded a select group of students a unique opportunity to have lunch with her that day in the library. Students were selected by writing essays explaining why they wanted to be chosen. 40 students attended this event.

d. National Poem in Your Pocket Day: PARP parent and student volunteers passed out a wide variety of poems to students as they arrived at school. We passed out more than 450 copies of more than 20 different poems, which students could share with each other throughout the day.

e. Family Reading night w/Ice Cream Social: Each Spring the ice-cream social is a major event. This year we transformed it into “Scoops and Stories”. We had three separate rooms running in parallel with stories and activities targeted at different age groups. We ran sessions at 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. Families could get their ice cream and then participate in any or all of the three rooms. Once again, we opened up the library for students to check out extra books.

Our former librarian, Joanne Magavern, and two of our literacy specialists volunteered as readers. Total attendance at the 9 sessions was more than 200 students! Each session ended with a book giveaway at random from among the books read in the sessions. Our principal used federal Title I money to purchase the books for this event. Attendance was up dramatically over
last year, and families appreciated having additional options for things to do before or after eating their ice cream.

**Summer:** To support our students’ summertime reading efforts, we developed an age appropriate reading chart. Participating students who submit a completed chart the first week of school will earn a Chipotle kids’ meal and a turn duct-taping our Principal to the Wall! Families that visit a library four times will be entered into a raffle to earn a family ice-cream outing.

**Outreach:** It was important that teachers, students and family were aware of our activities. Two members of the PARP team were a part of our school’s open house presentations. We had a frequently updated page on Facebook. Several times during the year, “PARP News” was sent home to every student. The PTA and the teachers produced a joint school newsletter that featured PARP information in every issue. The PARP team wanted to create visual elements that would include the entire school, with a connection to each child. To accomplish this, we linked up with the school literacy team, and together we created custom reading logs for each child in the school. At the lower grades, these posters reflected completion of monthly reading logs. At the upper grades, they reflected completion of specific genres. Students colored in their own personalized pictures on their lockers.

**3. RESULTS AND EVALUATION:** We were very pleased with the results of our yearlong program. Every student in the school was reached by PARP, through the individual logs they colored in and through listening to students on the announcements. We kept in close contact with the teachers and literacy team through the year, and they reported lots of excitement in the building over reading. More than 300 of our 500 students participated in the reviews and bookmark program, a 25% increase over 2015-16. Dozens more were selected by teachers as recognition for their extra effort, and rewarded with acknowledgment in our display case.

During the year, we continuously evaluated our progress. We had detailed tracking on Excel that let us know which students were participating in our reviews program. Those that did not were gently encouraged during their library time Mr. to try out a review. To target students without as much support at home, we held an after-school event where PARP volunteers and teachers helped students read and write book reviews. More than 50 students attended this event. All who attended were completely engaged and immersed in reading and writing, for some students it was their first attempt to completing a PARP book review. We will be offering more sessions in the fall.

We were in frequent contact with the principal and with the teachers through Mr. Morrisey. For example, after teacher feedback we decided to hold our spring push week further away from the NYS tests next year. We were also encouraged to have more events throughout the year, rather than focusing on concentrated weeks. Finally, we learned to be more cautious planning events that required a change in the daily class schedule. Our December 1 family reading night was motivated by this feedback. Our PARP chair will meet at the end of the year with our principal to discuss suggestions for next year and any concerns that arose this year.
Dear Reading Partners:
The PARP team would like to introduce you to our new, year-long reading program:

**SUPER DODGERS!**

Our PARP program is now in full swing. Attached to this letter you will find both a bookmark and a book review that your child can return for great prizes. If your child chooses to write a review, they have a chance to make it to the wall of fame and read their review on the announcements!

On the back of this letter you will find more fun ways to earn prizes. However, as much fun as we have handing out prizes, we want to remind all reading partners to share their love of reading with their children, as your passion will rub off on them!

**Upcoming Event:**

December 1st Family Reading / Food Truck Invasion!
Join us for a wild evening of reading activities, great food and of course, prizes!

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**How to earn delicious pizza:**
Complete Reading Log → Get Coupon From Teacher → Go Get Pizza

**How to earn prizes from the Prize Cart Ladies:**
(First Round Prizes Delivered on 11/5/16)

- Complete a Review
- Complete a Bookmark
- Or:

You get a prize!
Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

The story begins with introducing the characters, Albus, James, Rose, Ron, Harry, Ginny and Hermione. First James teases Albus about being in Slytherin. When they get on the train, Albus meets Scorpius and Rose leaves him alone because he’s a Malfoy. When they get to Hogwarts, Albus is in Slytherin. In his second year people tease him even worse. In his third year he burns his permission slip to Hogsmeade. Rose tries to make friends with Albus again but Albus says “no.” In his fourth year he meets a girl named Delphi and together they jump off the train and steal a time-turner from the ministry and try to save Cedric. Instead they bring back Voldemort, so with Hermione and Ron he fixes his mistake and brings back Harry and Albus. Suddenly Delphi comes back and kidnapped them to try to bring back Voldemort and fails so try’s something else. Happy reading, I won’t spoil it.
## Super Dodger Family Reading Night:

### Reading Groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rm 107: Miss Scott</td>
<td>The Day The Crayons Quit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 105: Mrs. Gengo</td>
<td>The Remarkable Farkle McBride</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 112: Mrs. Zwierchowski</td>
<td>That’s Good, That’s Bad + Alexander and the Terrible, No Good Very Bad Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 110: Miss Wainwright</td>
<td>Dragons Love Tacos + Secret Pizza Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 108: Mrs. Weber</td>
<td>Peaceful Piggy Meditation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 133: Mrs. Montante</td>
<td>Robert Munsch Author Showcase!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 140-142: Mrs. Curry / Mrs. Mango / Mrs. Perna</td>
<td>If you Give a Mouse a Cookie series showcase!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 138: Mrs. D’Angelo</td>
<td>Amelia Bedelia series showcase!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 135: Mrs. Myers</td>
<td>The Quilt Maker’s Journey or Boxes for Katja</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 137: Miss Witt</td>
<td>Junie B. Jones Series Showcase!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 141: Mrs. Schieffer</td>
<td>The Magic Treehouse Series Showcase!</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 143: Mrs. Gaesser</td>
<td>Clementine Series Showcase!</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 136: Mrs. Szatkowski</td>
<td>Poetry Showcase with Student Readers!</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Library is open all night (5-8) Stop by for books, activities, and free stuff! Mrs. Campos and her students are hosting an electrical maker-space!
Super Dodger Family Reading Night:

Workshops:

Rm 134: grades K-4 Mrs. Hopkins
Extra! Extra! Read all about it! What's in the news? Stop by this workshop to learn about News-O-Matic, a kid friendly news source for all Dodge grades!

Rm 109: Grades K-1 Mrs. Hart & Mrs Pautler
Join us to see how you can help your child grow as a reader with the help of "Raz-Kids". This computer/tablet based program is enjoyed by students at both school and home!

Rm 103: Grades K-1 Mrs. Bellacose & Miss. DeMartinis
Make and take game on sight words: Come create the game "KABOOM" and take it home with you tonight. Your kids will be so excited to practice their sight words!

SECRET TREASURE MAP:
CHEESY TREASURE RIDDLE: FROM THE POINT OF THE STAR, HEAD DUE SOUTH INTO A CORRIDOR. TAKE THAT CORRIDOR EAST TO A FORK IN THE ROAD. HEAD NORTH UNTIL AN EXIT APPEARS ON THE RIGHT. CHEESY AND SASSY TREASURE AWAITS!
Join us for the 2017 Dodge Elementary
Ice Cream Social!
"Scoops and Stories"
Friday, April 21st
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Ice Cream in the Cafeteria
Stories in the library and beyond!

$2.00 per sundae
Bring your family for an evening of ice cream and reading, with a chance to win a free homework pass!
The class in each grade with the highest attendance at the Ice Cream Social will win a free homework pass.

The PARP team will host family story times throughout the evening and the library will be open for students to check out extra books!

We will also be selling Anderson’s Coupon Books for $3 each while supplies last. For each coupon book purchased, you will receive a chance to win a free ice cream cake from Anderson’s! Please consider purchasing a book to help support our PTA.
**Super Dodgers!**

Ice Cream Social

Family Reading Groups

**Times:**

6:30 / 7:00 / 7:30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room #</th>
<th>Books / Special Guest Reader</th>
<th>Suggested Grade Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes Read by Mrs. Joanne Magavern</td>
<td>Pre-k-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Mike Lupica Books Read by Kevin Spitzer</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>My Weird School Read By Trisha Shea</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A special thanks to all of our guest readers, volunteers, PTA, and most of all, the wonderful families that support our school.

**Don’t forget to stop by the library!** You can check out books, show off your computer skills and enter for a chance to win a lunch with Dee Romito!
Every April, on Poem in Your Pocket Day, people celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them.

**Friday:**
Read a favorite poem. Wear a character or wear your favorite literary character costume.

**Thursday:**
Poem in your national celebrate national poem day.

**Wednesday:**
Deb Rombot visits.

**Tuesday:**
Read in the library. After lunch, visit the auditorium.

**Monday:**
Buffalo Wear athletes visiting UB Women.

**Daily Activities:**
- Hallways or books can be dropped off all year in the library.
- Level of Dodgers, we find ourselves in need of many more challenging chapter books.
- Book bins will be in the hallways.

**All Week Book Drive:** Bring in gently loved books for our advisory fall giveaway. Last year we received 248 books.

**April 24th-28th:**
Super Dodger Reading Week.
May 9, 2017

Dear Dodge Families,

On Wednesday, May 17, 2017 our P.A.R.P. (Pick A Reading Partner) Parent Team is hosting an afterschool opportunity for students to come to the library to read and write book reviews. This is a great chance, especially for those students who haven’t already completed a book review and would like to do so. We will be doing one more prize cart and Wall of Fame Selection this academic year!!! Adults will be in the library to assist interested students. If your student is interested in attending, please complete the bottom form to let the office know you will be picking him/her up at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17. If your student currently attends the afterschool program at Dodge (Just For Kids) will be able to get him/her and return following completion of the program! For students who are reading chapter books, it is necessary for your student to have pre-read the book prior to attending this time and to bring the book to the library for this time. For younger students, it would be helpful if your student would pre-select and bring the book, but not necessary. If you have questions concerning this opportunity, please feel free to contact Mr. Morrisey (bmosrisey@williamsvillek12.org) or Ginny Hemmer (716-688-8418 home) or email at mystout@hotmail.com.

My student ______________________________________________

Teacher/Grade ____________________________________________

Has my permission to stay after school on Wednesday, May 17 to work on a book review! I will pick my student up at 3:30 p.m. in the school lobby!

__________________________________________  ____________
Parent Signature                          Date

__________________________________________
Printed Name of Parent

New York State PTA
everychild.one voice.
Library display for bookmarks and reviews.

Superstar book reviewer wearing cape after reading on the announcements.

Super Dodger Display Case
Includes Exceptional Effort Readers.

Kickoff Assembly Performance Led By Mr. Morrisey

Each student received two free books and a bookmark to explain that the book was hers to keep!

New York State PTA

The Third Annual Dodge Elementary Book Giveaway!

Dear Parents,

To kick off PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) your child received up to two free books today. They are theirs to keep! We hope you continue to support PARP by sharing reading time with your children. Thank you to all who donated books! We are now accepting donations for next year’s book giveaway. If you are interested in donating or volunteering for PARP, you can stop by the library, email Mr. Morrisey at: bmorrisey@williamsvillek12.org or call the library at: (716) 626-9827.
Mike Randall performs during Fall Kickoff Week

Students are entertained at the first annual Family Reading Night

Recruiting Volunteers at the Fall Open Houses

To volunteer email Dave Hemmer
dhemmer@buffalo.edu
https://www.facebook.com/dodgeparp/
http://www.dodgepta.com/

Dodge Elementary @Dodge_VCSD · 1 Dec 2016
Thank you PARP TEAM for your dedication to our Dodgers! A night shared with over 300 participants! #incredible #success

Dodge Elementary @Dodge_VCSD · 1 Dec 2016
Dodge Elementary’s Reading Night In ACTION! Parents, Teachers, Students and Admin learning together! Thank you DODGE TEAM! #FANTASTIC

Live Tweeting PARP Family Reading Night!
Waiting for students to arrive at the book giveaway

Students’ actual faces adorned their lockers as they colored in personal Super Dodgers with each reading genre completed.

"Dodgeman" stood sentry in the library. Completed bookmarks, research reports and book reviews were turned in here.
One of Dodge’s Superstar Literary Specialists reads to students at “Scoops and Stories”.

All year long students earned pizzas by completing reading logs in class.

Mr. Morrissey waived the checkout limit for our evening events. Students took advantage to check out hundreds of extra books!

Super Dodgers continues over the summer.
Our bookmarks were an attempt to broaden participation and expand on the "reading partner" theme of PARP.
Writers’ Guide for Upperclassmen:

A good review will feature a discussion of the following elements. Place a checkmark next to each one that you covered:

- **Plot**: Write about the action and events but don't give away major events that would spoil the story. No spoilers!
- **Characters**: Who is in the story? Don't just give names! Share their personalities and motivations.
- **Setting**: Where the story takes place and why it matters.
- **Themes**: Themes are lessons or morals that may be in the story. Themes are sometimes hidden, so it may help to think about what the author may have wanted us to learn from the story.

Brought to you by:

Super Dodgers Book Review!

Book Title / Illustration:

Name: (First and last please!)

Grade: (Circle One)  
2nd 3rd 4th  
Teacher’s Name:  

PTA everchild Execute Dodge Elementary