NYS PTA 2021-2022 PICK A READING PARTNER (PARP) AWARD APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS:

The completed PARP Award Application must contain the following:
- Cover Sheet
- Data Information Sheet
- Responses to the three specific category areas below.

The completed PARP Award Application may include up to 15 pages of supportive materials. Instructions for the maximum points that may be awarded for each category are in the bolded section below. All instructions must be followed, or the application will be disqualified.

One state winner shall receive a plaque and a check for $250 to use for purchase of materials for the unit. Each region winner will receive a check for $100.

CATEGORY AREAS:

1.  Goals (10 points)
Briefly list your Pick A Reading Partner program goals. Did your goals support reading? Are they well-written and attainable?

2.  Implementation (55 points)
Provide a brief summary of your program; include a description of how the program was accomplished and who was involved. What activities did you do? Did you have a cultural arts connection? How was the participation with the students, parents, community (inside and outside of school)? Did you use the PARP logo, NYS PTA logo and/or create your own logo?

3.  Results and Evaluation (20 points)
State how your goals were accomplished and what tools were used to determine the results. If goals were not met, describe what you would improve next year. How did you assess your success? What instrument of measure did you use for participation/number of books read, etc.? Did you do an evaluation? Did you state if goals were met and how to improve for next year?

Supportive Materials (Bonus points):

Supporting materials may be reduced or altered to fit the required number of pages. No more than fifteen (15) additional pages of supportive materials, single-sided 8 ½ x 11-inch, may be submitted. Please include copies of information (forms, fliers, calendars, etc.) and press releases sent to parents, teachers and the community explaining the program. Note: Double sided brochures are considered two (2) pages.
The use of copyrighted material is not acceptable.

All materials must be clearly photographed or scanned for digital transmission or photocopying. The winning application will be reproduced exactly as submitted. This application subsequently becomes the supplement to the Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) Toolkit and the property of the NYS PTA.

DEADLINE
Application must be postmarked or emailed no later than MAY 15, 2022 and sent to your PTA Region Director (see NYS PTA website for address). Do not send applications to the NYS PTA office.

Email *

kjuliano@lansingburgh.org

Application Cover Sheet

Contact Person and Title (One Only) *

Kelly Juliano - Reading Teacher

Address (Winners will be contacted during summer months, please use the appropriate summer address) *

935 3rd Ave, Troy, NY 12182

Email Address *

kjuliano@lansingburgh.org

County: *

New York
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<tr>
<th><strong>Type Signature:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Juliano</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>PTA Region (see website for region map):</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Daytime Phone:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>518-573-9013</td>
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<th><strong>Evening Phone (if different):</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Submitting Group:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RPES PTA and PARP Committee</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Theme/Title of PARP Program:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RPES's Adirondack Reading Adventure</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>How many years has your school run a PARP program?:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
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How many years have you chaired the committee? *
6

PTA INFORMATION

If a PTA unit, please also complete the following:

PTA Name* 
Rensselaer Park Elementary PTA

Unit Code: * 
12-022

School Name: * 
Rensselaer Park Elementary School

Name of PTA President: * 
Julie Allen

Phone Number: * 
518-391-5824
Email Address: *

rpesPTA@lansingburgh.org

Type Signature *

Julie Allen

Data Information Sheet

Statement of recommendation (this section can be used in lieu of a mailed letter of recommendation; this statement should be the statement of the person who is recommending you for this advocacy award). Or, recommendation can be emailed to pta.office@nyspta.org.

Theme/Title of PARP program: *

RPES's Adirondack Reading Adventure

Name of School (or Library): *

Rensselaer Park Elementary School

Name of School District: *

Lansingburgh Central School District

Grade levels participating in PARP program: *

3-5
Total number of students in participating grade levels: *
470

Estimated number of students participating: *
230

Length of program (weeks/months): *
5 weeks

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 - PTA Organization's budget: *
$750.00

Income - School District Contribution: *
$0

Income - Local Organization/Business. Be specific and list below: *
Teacher Donation - $140.21
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Areas:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost of Program:</td>
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<tr>
<td>$742.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category Areas:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goals (10 points)</td>
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Briefly list your Pick A Reading Partner program goals. Did your goals support reading? Are they well-written and attainable?

The theme, RPES’s Adirondack Reading Adventure, was inspired by the Adirondack Mountains and becoming an Adirondack 46-R. Being in close proximity to the Adirondacks, our students have visited parts and don’t even know they’re in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains.

1. The main goal of this program was to learn about the Adirondacks, our state and to also incorporate social studies so students can see the cross-curricular connection.
2. To increase the number of total minutes read as a building, by 15% from the previous school year.
3. Inspire a lifelong love of reading.
4. Create a website as a central location for all PARP information and materials, for teachers, parents and students to use both at home and school.
5. Communicate our program through a variety of methods, including correspondence home, social media and displays throughout the school.
6. Encourage reading by holding another PARP reading event at school.
7. Work together with the teachers, administration, and PTA members to create a successful program.

Implementation (55 points)

Provide a brief summary of your program; include a description of how the program was accomplished and who was involved.
The students returned to school on February 28th to find the school transformed into RPES’s Adirondack Reading Adventure. We let the excitement build for a few days prior to our virtual kickoff assembly on Thursday, March 3rd. To start the assembly, we explained this year’s PARP program and what it would look like. A building goal for minutes read was also revealed at the assembly. Students were also told that there was a special reward for the class that read the most minutes, our Principal would donate $100 to their charity of choice.

Website
In order to best reach all of our students, we created a PARP website which contained all of our PARP paperwork in both digital and printable forms. It also included the PARP virtual kickoff video, weekly minute updates, teacher read alouds, pictures and so much more. The website was a great resource for our students both in school and at home. Many students continued to take advantage of the Google form reading log this year and logged their minutes completely digitally. Visit our site (case sensitive): bit.ly/RPESreads22

Hiking Boots
Prior to introducing the PARP theme at our kick off assembly, each classroom received a blank pair of hiking boots to decorate. These boots were used throughout the month of March, to track how many minutes each class read. They "hiked" throughout the different regions of the Adirondacks. Each pair of boots was a unique representation of the students in the room.

Adirondack Regions
Each hallway in our building was assigned a different region of the Adirondacks to transform for the month of PARP. They researched and discussed different attractions and events within their region. After researching, each classroom picked one attraction to decorate their section of the hallway and they worked together to create and represent an entire region. For example, classrooms in the Lake Placid Region had the Olympic Center, luge, ice hockey and an ice skating rink. All of the decorations were student designed and student made.

Our most traveled hallway, the area of the office and cafeteria, represented the Adirondacks Welcome Center and the 46 High Peaks. The main office was decorated to look just like the Welcome Center and even included an I Love NY sign in front. The cafeteria had the high peaks around the perimeter of the room so kids were able to eat lunch in the mountains.

Backpacks
Each student and staff member received a backpack that they used to keep track of the number of mountains they read. For every 35 minutes read, one high peak was marked on their backpack. Once all of the high peaks were marked the student or staff member became a RPES Reading 46-R.

A Knight in the Adirondacks (Literacy Night)
On April 7th we hosted our annual Literacy Night, “A Knight in the Adirondacks.” We created the name from a play on our district mascot, the knight. Teachers and community members came out and created Adirondack themed events with a literacy component. Over 150 students and their families enjoyed the experience.
event. Upon entering the event, students were given an Adirondack Guide which contained a copy of the reading found at each station. The stations represented regions of the Adirondacks and students read about the region and answered a question before participating. Some stations included: ax throwing, luge in Lake Placid, Adirondack Wordle, animal track scavenger hunt, climbing the high peaks (rock climbing) and so much more. This event was a huge success and we were happy to be able to hold it again this year.

PARParazzi
Each week we went around the building taking pictures of both students and faculty reading. Parents also emailed us pictures of their kids reading at home. The pictures were featured on our PARParazzi bulletin board.

Spirit Days
Throughout PARP we had spirit days to encourage student participation. Each spirit day was Adirondack themed. Students thoroughly enjoyed these days.

The Great Reading Camp Out
This year we added a new nighttime event to our PARP program, the Great Reading Camp Out. More than 100 families attended this free event. They brought sleeping bags, tents and chairs and “camped out” in our cafeteria and read. They were also able to enjoy s’mores and eat bookworms (gummy worms) while reading with their friends and family.

Backpack Book Recommendations
We continued a writing component in our PARP program. After reading a book, students were encouraged to fill out a backpack book recommendation. Their recommendations were displayed on a bulletin board in the cafeteria which said “Adventure Starts Here.”

Adirondack Artwork
We wanted to expand our PARP program across content areas to include art. Students created artwork centered in nature and the Adirondacks. They were hung throughout the building during the program.

Outreach
PARP news was sent home and posted on a variety of social media platforms. Updated information and pictures were also posted on our PARP website and shared weekly on our Morning Show (available to community members via YouTube). An article about our PARP program was also featured on the WTEN website (https://www.news10.com/news/north-country/school-goes-adirondack-for-student-reading-challenge/).

Adirondack 46-R Visit
We were lucky enough to have an Adirondack 46-R visit our school with a hiking leader. Both are local to our area and came to talk about becoming 46-Rs and the hard work needed to accomplish goals. The kids were also able to ask questions and hold a lot of the hiking gear.

Prizes
Students worked towards becoming RPES Reading 46-Rs. For every 35 minutes they read, one high peak was climbed. Once students reached 46-R status, they received a custom RPES Reading 46-R sticker as well as a certificate. All students that read all 5 weeks of PARP were invited to our ice cream social where they received ice cream, a brand new book and a bookmark. The top readers in each grade level received a gift certificate for Barnes and Noble. One new and special prize this year was a $100 donation from our
principal. The class that read the most minutes picked a charity of their choice to donate to in their name. Ice cream and toppings were donated by Stewarts.

Results and Evaluation (20 Points):

State how your goals were accomplished and what tools were used to determine the results.
We were very pleased with the results of our 5 week long program. Our minute goal was based on a 15% increase from last year's program. The goal was 119,035 minutes. We exceeded our goal and read for 209,311 minutes. This is the highest number of minutes our building has read in the 6 years I've run our program.

Google Sheets was used to track all reading participation. The spreadsheet was essential in keeping our data organized and determining who won the Golden Adirondack Chair each week and the students that read the most minutes.

Looking back at this year's PARP program, we can attribute its success to our all inclusive theme. The building was decorated with Adirondack themed bulletin boards, banners, different regions and attractions from each one and giant hiking boots. Each spirit day was Adirondack themed. We held a reading camp out that allowed students and families to read under the high peaks in their camping gear. During Literacy Night children were greeted and welcomed to the Adirondacks. The entire area was decked out in Adirondack themed decorations, banners and signs. Students were extremely excited about this program because they felt a sense of ownership with their hiking boots and region. They were excited to become Reading 46-Rs.

One area that we wanted to improve upon from previous years was our PARP events. Literacy Night is always a huge part of our PARP program, but we wanted to hold other events to encourage reading. We accomplished this goal by hosting the Great Reading Camp Out. Students and their families came to school at night with camping gear and a book(s) and read. Another area of improvement was our numbers. We had more students participate in PARP this year than last year and students read for more than 200,000 minutes. Another area of improvement was our community involvement. This year we were able to have guests in our building again and because of that we were able to invite an Adirondack 46-R and hiking leader in to talk to our kids.

Upon the evaluation of this year's program, there are a few areas we'd like to improve for next year. The last two years we've had a website and an electronic reading log option, but most students and families were still completing the paper copy each week. Next year we'd like to encourage more students and families to fill out the electronic reading log. Another area of improvement would be to offer after school times and volunteers to read with students that don't have as much support at home. One way to do this is to create a reading club. Clubs were new to our after school programming, but this would be a great way to allow more students to participate.

Supportive Materials (Bonus Points)

State how your goals were accomplished and what tools were used to determine the results.
State how your goals were accomplished and what tools were used to determine the results. If goals were not met, describe what you would improve next year. How did you assess your success? What instrument of measure did you use for participation/number of books read, etc.? Did you do an evaluation? Did you state if goals were met and how to improve for next year?

Application Checklist

This application is due no later than May 15, 2022

Checklist

- Application Cover Sheet
- Data Information
- Responses to Category Areas 1-3
- Supportive Materials

This form was created inside of NYS PTA.
Parent letter that was sent home at the beginning of PARP

Example of a weekly reading log

Calendar of events sent home at the beginning of PARP
Applicant’s Name ____________________________
Teacher _________________________________
Grade ________________________________

We promise to read together at least 20
minutes a day for 5, 6 or 7 days a week from March 4th to
April 8th.

Applicant’s Signature __________________________ Reading Partner’s Signature

Please return to your classroom teacher, complete on our website OR email
a picture to RPESparp@lansingburgh.org by Friday, March 4th!

46-R Application (reading contract) were offered as a paper
copy and digitally on our website

Welcome to our PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) 2022 website! PARP is a PTA sponsored
program created to encourage families to
read together at home. This site contains all
the necessary paperwork to participate in
this year's program, a PARP calendar to keep
track of all of our events, recorded read
alouds from teachers and community
members, electronic activities and pictures
from our program. If you have any questions
or concerns, please email
Each student had their own personalized backpack outside of their classroom to keep track of the mountains they climbed each week.

Certificate and sticker that Reading 46-Rs earned.

Certificate of Accomplishment

This Certifies That

KELLY JULIANO

Has successfully completed reading all Forty-Six major peaks of the Adirondacks and is therefore assigned this number

2404

I hereby certify this outstanding accomplishment on April 12, 2022.

Mrs. Juliano
We held a reading camp out in the middle of our PARP program. Families came, brought camping gear, read and ate s’mores.

Bookmarks given out at the Great Reading Camp Out

We were able to bring back literacy night this year. Save the dates went home for “A Knight in the Adirondacks” as well as a paper to RSVP to the event.
2022 PARP Rap
By DaLynn

It is P A R P.
Find a partner and read.

20 minutes a day
that’s what we say.

Hiking through the Adirondacks
may take some time, but we’ve got this.

Grab your boots, let’s go hiking,
to the High Peaks, you’ll see the view.

46 mountains
Read them all learn something new.

RPES reads.

2022 PARP Spirit Days

March 4th - RPES Spirit Wear Day
March 11th - These Boots Were Made for Reading:
Wear your favorite shoes
March 17th - St. Patrick’s Day - Wear Green
March 25th - Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day
April 1st - Dress Like an Adirondack Adventurer (Athletic Wear)
April 8th - We Can Read Anywhere:
Wear a shirt from your favorite place

2022 PARP Spirit Days

Weekly updates were shown on our morning show to let the building know which classes were in the lead and how many minutes we’d read as a building.

2022 PARP Rap Lyrics

Weekly updates were shown on our morning show to let the building know which classes were in the lead and how many minutes we’d read as a building.

2022 Virtual Kickoff Assembly
A Knight in the Adirondacks program guide. It included a copy of the literacy at each station. Bookworms were given out as a special treat during The Great Reading Camp Out.
Hallway Decorating
Hallway Decorating
The Great Reading Camp Out
Spirit Days
Tracking Systems and Rewards
Student Engagement and Writing Component
Ice Cream Social