

Tuesday, September 9, 2015

Greetings Families,

The School District of Philadelphia and the Free Library of Philadelphia would like to welcome you back to the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) - *Building Bridges with Books* program.

The Innovative Approaches to Literacy - *Building Bridges with Books* program is grant funded and enables us to provide high-quality early literacy activities for students in grades K-1 in the first year and in grades 1 and 2 in the second year of the program.

The objectives of the program are to: (a) improve curriculum and instruction for students; (b) re-envision student learning environments; and (c) train and meaningfully engage parents and caregivers in the improvement of their children's literacy skills.

Your child's visits to the library will start in October. The *Building Bridges with Books* Program would also like to invite you to participate in the after school biweekly Read Along Sessions. Your child's teacher will be sharing the schedule with you soon. These Read Along sessions are intended to build your skills so you can become your child's reading coach. Child verbal interaction is strongly associated with vocabulary development, development of conceptual knowledge, and ultimately literacy improvement. Furthermore, research has shown that "reading to young children is related to stronger subsequent academic achievement."

In addition, the Free Library closest to your child's school will host monthly family events along with exciting monthly Parent Literacy Workshops. A certificate will be provided to you following successful completion of all training sessions- which may lead to preferred qualification for employment opportunities with the School District of Philadelphia. For more information on the library workshops, please call the Free Library at 215- 686-5322 and for more info on the IAL program please contact your school.

Wishing you and your child a great school year.

Sincerely,