

September 2013

Dear families,

Welcome to a new school year! As your child's ESOL teacher (English to speakers of other languages), I am here to help your child learn academic English and have a successful school year. I am also here to answer any questions you might have and to help you find resources your family might need.

If we work together, we can make this year great for your child. I will be counting on your expertise for some projects we will be doing this year. One will involve family stories or stories from your culture. Many cultures have stories that we tell generation after generation. I would really appreciate it if you would be willing to share these stories with us at school. Please fill out the attached form if you can help with this project!

I am also attaching a family literacy survey. This will help me get a sense of how you and your child experience literacy together, which will help me teach your child. The connection between home and school is so important to your child's success, so please return these forms to help me teach your child.

In addition, I am attaching a permission slip to take pictures and videos of your child. These will be used for the magazine we publish together and to record your child reading his/her writing. Students really like participating in this project, so please return it as soon as possible.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can call the school number 215-727-2164 and leave a message and I will call you back as soon as possible. You can also e-mail me at rgelb@philasd.org. I would be happy to help with any educational concerns you might have, and I can also try to help you with any services your family might need such as translation.

Thank you,

Rachel Gelb

Family Stories

_____ I would like to come into school to tell the students a family story or cultural story

The story is called _____

I am available at these times/days _____

___ I cannot come into school, but I can tell my child a story to share with the class

The story is called _____

___ I would like to write down a story and send it to class with my child

The story is called _____

Family Literacy Survey

Do you read to your child? _____ How often? _____

What times do you read together? _____

What kind of books do you read together? _____

Does your child read to you? _____ How often? _____

What kind of things does he/she read? _____

Does your child read with anyone else in the family? _____ Who/how often? _____

Do you read in English or another language or both? _____

Is there anything else you can tell me about reading in your family? _____
