

PSLA 2008 Conference : Get Reading @ Your Library

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Falk School Library Web Site:
<http://tc.education.pitt.edu/library/index.html>

Project Web Site:
<http://tc.education.pitt.edu/library/SpringRead/SpringReading.html>

Get Reading @ Your Library Sessions Materials and Handouts:
<http://tc.education.pitt.edu/library/SpringRead/PSLA2008-GetReading.html>

The Falk School community celebrates School Library Month as part of its Spring Reading Initiative. During the months of April and May, reading and listening are promoted by activities which foster a spirit of community rather than competition. Parents, teachers, interns, staff, and students are encouraged to join in these activities.

In his book, *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*, Stephen Krashen states that free voluntary reading is one of the most powerful tools we have in language instruction (1). "In-school' free reading studies and 'out of school' self-reported free voluntary reading studies show that more reading results in better reading comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling and grammatical development" (12).

The Reading Chain grows as Book Badges are added for each book read or read aloud. The value of honesty is stressed. Students watch the Reading Chain grow as it snakes its way from light fixtures and book shelves throughout the library. The Page Tally is updated daily and prominently displayed. The culminating activity is The Read-In, a school wide SSR (Sustained Silent Reading). The Totals are announced and the school community joins together to celebrate reading.

Resources

Krashen, Stephen. *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1993.

Trelease, Jim. *The New Read-Aloud Handbook*. New York: Penguin Books, 2001.