



End of Year Literacy Update and 2019-2020 Information

June 17, 2019

Dear Teachers,

We are so inspired by all you have done this year to support our elementary children as readers and writers! We hope you have had a satisfying year and are ready for some summer rejuvenation.

In preparation for next year, we have a few important updates, links and reminders. See below:

- **2019-2020 GRADE LEVEL CALENDARS:** Next year's grade level calendars will soon be posted on the [PPS Literacy Coach Website](#). Based on teacher feedback, the updated calendars reflect places where clarity or a shift in timing was needed; however, we have tried to maintain as much consistency and continuity as possible from this year. When reviewing these calendars, **please be sure to read pages 2 and 3.** These explanation pages are essential to reading the calendars accurately and to understanding the options within them.
- **2019-2020 ASSESSMENT EXPECTATIONS:** Updated assessment expectations will also soon be available and can be found under the [Assessment Expectations](#) tab. We will remind you of these updated assessment documents in the fall, but we know some of you prefer the information sooner rather than later.
- **ROLLING OUT UNITS OF STUDY IN PHONICS:** As many of you know, a small group of kindergarten and grade one teachers from across the district piloted these new phonics units during the past year and were unanimous in recommending their adoption. Pilot teachers were enthusiastic about their students' engagement in learning, their growth in phonics knowledge and their application of these skills to reading and writing. This fall, all K and 1 teachers will use these new phonics units and teachers in these grades will see the curriculum calendars reflect the pacing of the Units of Study in Phonics alongside RW and WW. We will also begin the rollout of the Units of Study in Phonics for Grade 2 with a small group of teachers. The grade 2 units are expected to arrive later this summer.
- **SAVE THE DATE! [TEACHERS COLLEGE READING AND WRITING PROJECT FALL REUNION](#): October 19, 2019. Keynote Speakers Peter Reynolds and Lucy Calkins:** This incredible (free!) professional development opportunity is open to all, twice a year in NYC at Teachers College. There are hundreds of sessions to choose from that relate

directly to implementing Reading and Writing Workshop (including Units of Study) in your classroom. No registration is required. If you would like to attend the fall reunion, please reach out to us and we can fill you in on tips for traveling.

This is an exciting transition time here in our ELA Department as we welcome Keri Stack to the role of literacy coach, beginning Fall 2019! You may know Keri from her many years of teaching in the district. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone next year. Keri and Natalie will be working collaboratively across the district in the fall to support this transition in our department.

Have a wonderful summer everyone!

~Lisa White, Natalie Lacroix-White and Jennifer Yaeger