

# Making Literacy come alive with a Furry Red Monster:

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A collaborative Reading project  
between Jensen Beach High  
School and JD Parker Elementary

“Students' perceptions of the quality of school life decline as they progress from elementary to secondary school, with the largest decline occurring during the transition to a middle level school”  
(Diemert, 1992).

“Students of the receiving school can become "ambassadors" of goodwill. Student-to-student contact, preceded by a discussion of what information might be useful to new students, can help establish personal links. Sending-school students can be paired with receiving-school students for visitation days.”

Our students act as “ambassadors” of goodwill bridging the elementary and high school. Elementary students will remember their connections to the high school through their puppet-making activity and storybook created by the high schoolers which was shared with them.

If we foster a positive relationship between all the grade level schools, we can create paradigm shifts.

# Why

- Creating a Partnership between academic levels.
- Creates a positive relationship which will result in a Win-Win situation
- Win-Win:
  - Elementary students develop a relationship with High School students. This will create a comfort level when those students eventually attend this high school.
  - High School students learn the value of mentoring and working with their peers.

# BECOMING A NATION OF READERS

Commission on Reading 1985

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

The Commission found conclusive evidence to support its use not only in the home but also in the classroom.

"It is a practice that should continue throughout the grades."

# Why cont.

- Condition the student's brain to associate reading with pleasure
- Create background knowledge
- Build vocabulary
- Providing a reading model

Humans are pleasure centered and every time we read to a child, we are sending a "pleasure" message to the child's brain. You could even call it a commercial, conditioning the child to associate books and print with pleasure.

Jim Trelease

## Research Says:

- Reading aloud is the single most important factor in raising a reader!
- Most inexpensive 15 minutes a day
- Reading aloud is the best kept secret in America

# Book Selection Process

- Reading Coach
- Literacy Council
- Call for volunteers
- Selected Cross-Curricular Team
- Provided substitutes for the team to create curriculum/activity binder
- Deciding to collaborate with Elementary

# Bringing the Read Aloud to Life

- Found a living Code Talker, Mr. Roy Hawthorne
- Cost
  - Speaker Honorarium
  - Travel
  - Meals
  - Accommodations
  - Materials
  - Books

# How We Developed Activities

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Project In Action

# Results

# Research States:

- In the classroom, students' acquisition of vocabulary occurs through explicit and systematic instruction from their teachers (Armbruster, Lehr, & Osborn 2001).
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- Vocabulary instruction should be explicit and systematic
  - (Reading First: Vocabulary [www.ncrel.org/rt/sbrr/vocab.htm](http://www.ncrel.org/rt/sbrr/vocab.htm)).
- Students learn vocabulary more effectively when they are directly involved in constructing meaning rather than in memorizing definitions or synonyms (ERIC : Vocabulary Instruction and Reading Comprehension; Carl B. Smith).

# Thank you for being here!

Presentation link available at

<http://jbhs.sbmc.org>