To sign up for the Teacher eNewsletter, learn more on our website.

Has your class visited Phoenix Public Library?

Did you know Phoenix Public Library encourages classrooms to come and visit us? Get an exclusive “behind-the-scenes” tour for your students! Learn about how the library works, visit a storytime and get library cards.

Our goal is your goal – to get kids to make reading a habit!

Contact jacqueline.higgins@phoenix.gov to arrange a library field trip.
Literacy Tip: Reading Time

It’s one thing to help students learn how to read, but finding meaningful and engaging ways to instill a love of reading is not always easy. The most important thing is to make sure that reading time in class is fun and rewarding. Not all lessons are inherently fun, but making sure to pair a more rote task with a ‘reading reward’ task is great way to ensure kids end their reading lesson with a positive and intrinsically rewarding feeling.

Some ideas:

- After a timed reading session, take a moment to read aloud from a recreational or fun book.
- When working on reading or vocabulary skills, make it a game – send kids on a word hunt throughout the classroom to find new words or words that fit a pattern.
- **Start a dialogue.** Talk about favorite characters, stories, etc. before starting a new lesson. Talk about who and what your favorite characters and stories are.
- **Reader’s theater.** Create fun incentives in exchange for hard or less exciting reading tasks. Allow the kids to stage a “reader’s theater” with their favorite book and get them inside the story.

Don’t take my word for it… [read to what Levar Burton has to say](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o9iWl9wKpQ)!
Book Review: *Grit* by Angela Duckworth

*Grit* is a pretty strong buzzword these days. But what is it? According to Angela Duckworth, a psychologist and former teacher, it’s a combination of passion and perseverance. In her book, *Grit*, Duckworth lays out her personal experience growing up with a hard-to-impress father and her own quest to help her children find passion and stick with it, along with her thorough research into the psychology of grit and what it takes to be good (or even great) at something. (Spoiler alert – it’s not all about IQ.)

One of the early, and major, takeaways from Duckworth’s book is that effort counts twice as much as talent. Jumping from that premise, she goes on to explain how to be motivated enough to actually put in the effort it takes to become great – which is a marriage of practice, passion, and sticking it out through the tough spots.

What makes this book such a great read for educators is that it gives insight into how you can incorporate a “culture of grit” into your classroom using simple tasks and tools. From how to tailor praise to creating a gritty culture. Duckworth talks about the importance that interest plays in a person’s desire to persevere. *Grit* is absolutely worth a read. Put a copy on hold at Phoenix Public Library today!
Featured eResource: Pronunciator Languages

Pronunciator is Phoenix Public Library’s newest language resource. It offers more than 80 languages to choose from, live instructors and specifically designed programs for kids – ages 3-6 and for older elementary age, 7-12. If you’re looking to brush up on your own language skills for a trip, Pronunciator has an 8-Week Travel Prep Course, among many other learning tracks.

Pronunciator easy to use, robust and simple to access from the library’s website. You can use Pronunciator instantly by filling in your email and clicking Instant Access or you can create an account to track progress. Download the Pronunciator App for lessons on your smartphone or tablet.

Phoenix Public Library is a system of 16 branch libraries and the Burton Barr Central Library. Keep up with all the news. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/phxlibrary, follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary and “like us” on Facebook at facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary.