



October 2014

Dear Parents,

Your child has indicated an interest in participating in the PSE Elementary Battle of the Books Program for the **2014-2015** school year. This is an optional program, which will take place at school, but involves reading books at home. The reading portion of this program should begin now. Your child will be given a bookmark listing the books that will be part of the Elementary Battle of the Books program this school year. Our library has a limited number of copies of each book. The attached permission slip needs to be signed and returned to the library if your child wishes to participate in the program.

If a student wants to participate in the program, he/she is expected to come to the first meeting (Thursday, Oct. 23rd at 7:45 am in the Media Center). All meetings will take place BEFORE SCHOOL on Thursday mornings. If a student rides the bus, he/she may need to find alternate transportation on EBOB meeting days. It is extremely important that students are committed and are at meetings. A calendar of the meeting dates will be given out on Oct. 23rd. Practice battles will begin in the month of January and our final school battle(s) will take place in May or June depending on our EOG testing/retest schedule.

The Battle of the Books is a fun and constructive program where the students enjoy both the reading and the competition. *We do emphasize that any student who signs up to participate needs to make a commitment to their team and stay with the program until its end.*

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Rider, Mrs. Berlacher, Mrs. Kendall or Mrs. Ikoku.

Battle of the Books
Parent Permission Form

_____ has my permission to participate in the 2014-2015
PSE Elementary Battle of the Books Program. I will support and encourage
him/her in this program.

Grade _____ Teacher _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

**PERMISSION FORM IS DUE TO MRS. RIDER BY MONDAY,
OCTOBER 13th!**

Getting Started...

1. What are "Book Battles"?

Book Battle programs are competitions similar to jeopardy or quiz games, but questions come from a controlled list of books that participants read in preparation for the matches. Book Battle programs are a great way to get students to read.

It should be noted that PSE will NOT be battling other schools at this time. Our battles will take place between teams here at PSE. As the program continues, we will look at battling other schools in the district.

2. How does it work?

Teams will be made up of children from 4th grade PSE students. Team members can be from the same class or mixed classes. All team members should be active and cooperative participants on their team. Three or more teams is an optimum number, but as few as two teams will work. Our goal is to have 4-5 students on each team. Students will meet as a whole group the first 2 meetings. Teams will be formed in January. Once a team has been formed, changes cannot be made.

3. Who makes sure the team members are reading?

Parents and the PSE Staff "coaches" (Mrs. Rider, Mrs. Berlacher, Mrs. Kendall and Mrs. Ikoku), but it is ultimately up to the kids to make sure that they read the books on the list. A team captain will also be necessary for each team. Team captains will be selected after teams are formed. Only one person can give the answers during the actual match. The

team can confer with each other, but it is the captain that gives the answer. Teams may decide to split up the reading list instead of everyone reading all the titles. It will be very important that all team members show up for all the matches if they choose to do this.

4. When does the “Elementary Battle of the Books” start?

In general, promotion begins in the fall, is intensified during the winter, and the battles take place in late spring.

5. How are books selected for the book list?

Books are chosen by the North Carolina School Library Media Association. Considerations when selecting titles for the list include reading level, popularity, awards received, cross gender interest, promotion of excellent titles that may not be well known, titles that frequently appear on Accelerated Reader or other reading lists, and availability of in-print or paperback copies.

6. Will there be enough copies of the titles to go around?

The PSE Library has at least one copy of each title available for checkout. Mrs. Ikoku also has multiple copies of some titles that may be borrowed. Students are also encouraged to utilize the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County.

7. How are the actual Book Battles structured?

- On match day there will be a judge, score keeper, time keeper, and a person to read the questions. (This person may be the same as the judge).
- Each match lasts approximately 15 minutes and contains 10 questions. There will be at least 2 matches; more if there is a tie at the end of the second match.
- Team order in the tournament will be randomly selected.
- Each team has 20 seconds per question.
- Questions are all in the same format - *In what book...? or In which book...?*
- Answers are always in the form of the title and author of the book. A maximum of 3 points per question is possible (2 for title & 1 “bonus” for author).
- If an answer or only part of an answer (i.e. title only or author only) cannot be furnished by a team, the other team may answer and receive partial points for that question.
- A running score is not necessary, though the time-keeper may tell teams the score half-way through the match.

8. What are this year’s EBOB books? There are 18 titles – start reading!

NCSLMA Elementary Battle of the Books Booklist 2014-2015

2014-2015	
Title	Author
How Tia Lola Came to Visit/Stay	Julia Alvarez
The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale	Jeanne Birdsall
Soft Rain	Cornelia Cornelissen

Among the Hidden	Margaret Peterson Haddix
Taffy of Torpedo Junction	Nell Wise Wechter
Extra Credit	Andrew Clements
Free Baseball	Sue Corbett
Kenny & the Dragon	Tony DiTerlizzi
A Strong Right Arm	Michelle Y. Green
Princess Academy	Shannon Hale
Turtle in Paradise	Jennifer L. Holm
Blue	Joyce Hostetter
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin
Rules	Cynthia Lord
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library	Chris Grabenstein
The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912	Lauren Tarshis
The Candymakers	Wendy Mass