



Reading Buddies

There is an exciting new collaboration going on in the Elementary wing of RIS. The Reading Buddy program started by Mr. Dave and Ms. Laurie, brings the students in classes 5-3 and 1-3 together once every 8-day cycle for a one-on-one reading program that is fun and inspirational for everyone involved.

Based around a Guided Reading program that introduces a new reading skill each session, Grade 5 students assist the Grade 1 class with reading strategies like:

- What to do when you don't understand a word?
- Reading on
- Making connections
- Using pictures to understand meaning

"The buddy-reading format is one that parents can do at home," says Mr. Dave, "The focus is on how to help the reader." Mr. Dave says he was surprised how much his students were excited to go into the library to pick out a book with their younger buddy in mind. "Everyone is so into it," he says, "the students are interested and they enjoy the social aspect and the attention they get from their younger buddies."

Grade 5 student Tony related his experience and mentioned, "I like reading with my buddy because it's really fun, and I get to teach my buddy how to read syllables and grammar."



"We were hoping it was going to be successful," says Ms. Laurie modestly, "but I wasn't expecting so many bodies in one classroom – and STILL having a hush of busy reading going on." Ms. Laurie says the benefits go beyond the developing readers in her classroom. "The older students are really liking the chance to be leaders and taking on this responsibility", she says, "They seem proud of what they are doing, and my students look up to them."

The next session of Reading Buddies should be equally fun and exciting – as the reading skill they are developing is: **ACT IT OUT!**

Stay tuned!



Loy Krathong

The Elementary Thai classes celebrated the beloved festival of Loy Krathong by participating in traditional activities and craft-making. Students in Ms. Rujapa's class were learning Thai dancing, the Loy Krathong song, and the meaning behind the festival – promises to the Water Angel that they will not pollute and to be a good person for the environment.

The preschool classes also celebrated the holiday by floating their Krathongs in their own little "lake."

Loy Krathong Day is one of the most popular festivals of Thailand celebrated annually on the Full-Moon Day of the Twelfth Lunar Month. It takes place at a time when the weather is fine as the rainy season is over and there is a high water level all over the country.

