

In2Books eMentor Summer Newsletter



<http://www.in2books.com>

2010

Pen Pal Edition

Connect with Other In2Books eMentors!

Summer Activities!

- * Visit Pen Pal Lounge
- * Join Groups in Pen Pals' Lounge
- * Be a part of Pen Pal forums
- * Join the In2Books Facebook community
- * Watch the pen pal tutorial
- * Write your Getting to Know You Letter
- * Recruit other pen pals!

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Connect with other In2Books volunteers over the summer in Pen Pals' Lounge. Simply login to your account and select the Pen Pals' Lounge tab in the top navigation bar. Here is what you will find...

Favorite Children's Book Forum

Join others to discuss and share favorite children's books. Throughout the summer new discussion forums will be added as well as links to great reading and author sites. Post your own forum topics as well!

Mystery Lovers Group

We found that many of our volunteers are lovers of adult books as well! Please join our Mystery Lovers Group in Pen Pals' Lounge if you would like to join discussions and link to



other activities throughout the year.

Our first book discussion is Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

Pen Pal Help Group

Join this group to post helpful tips or ideas for other eMentors. It is also a place to post questions or topics relating to mentoring children.

Pen Pal Lounge Ideas

Share your ideas for what you would find interesting or helpful in Pen Pals' Lounge. We are here to make your experience engaging and useful.

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More to Come... Look for opportunities to join discussions or suggest a topic by emailing me at rolien@corp.epals.com.

In2Books on Facebook

Join other eMentors on the In2Books [Facebook](#) community.



Connect through time and place with the magic of words

In2Books 2010-2011 Program Highlights

We are excited about the changes for the 2010-2011 school year. The program centers around 45 school teams all across the country. Each team of 3 to 10 teachers is supported by a teacher leader who is participating in teacher mentor training this summer.

What does this mean for pen pals?

Teacher leaders are designing plans that will help guide their team to stronger communication with pen pals. You should be finding more messages from teachers keeping you posted on the classes' progress.



Mentors Make a Difference



You are not alone in wanting to make a difference in the life of a child and to give our teachers a hand in important educational goals.

Mentoring has proven to be an effective way to provide individual attention to students. With the Internet and safe secure email, more schools are look-

ing for ways to connect students with experts and caring adults within the fabric of the classroom.

Youth who were matched with mentors reported lower levels of substance use and initiation, less physical aggression, more positive parent and peer relation-



ships, and higher scholastic competence, attendance, and grades than control youth



Find out more at: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

“How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world.”

— Anne Frank

Privacy and Internet Safety Issues

Teachers and parents are aware of the safety concerns that are a risk with online exchanges. In2Books has lessened many of the worries with the background check and teacher monitored letters. No letter goes to a child that is not first approved by the teacher.

It is important, as a mentor to realize the need for privacy and to model this in your letters. Even though you have

the best possible intentions, other adults children may come in contact with on the Web, may not.



Children are taught to protect their identity and location. They should not share their last

name, school name, town, phone number, or private email with you.

Do not ask questions or share your

own personal contact information, personal web sites, or email.

This models safety and focuses on the child and sharing as it relates to topics in the books.

Check out David's entry in the Pen Pal wiki located in Pen Pals' Lounge. He shares his insight and ideas about safety. Feel free to add you own ideas to the wiki.

Directions for the wiki are located in the Pen Pals' Lounge Media.

Pen Pals are eMentors!
You may see both used as we transition to the eMentor label for our volunteers.

Pen Pals as Child Advocates

As a pen pal volunteer you become an advocate for children. Your involvement with schools supports the work of teachers to give all students the educational opportunities for a bright future.

Sharing your time in online exchanges is a valuable contribution giving students the individual attention necessary for guiding them in reading,

writing, and thinking skills.

Your letters motivate students and show them that what they think makes a difference. There can never be too many caring adults in a child's life!



Supporting Education Together

New to In2Books?

If this is your first year with In2Books, we are here to help you every step of the way!

To help you feel more comfortable with the program before school starts, we suggest the following:

- Watch the pen pal tutorial. This gives you an overview of the program and is required before you can be matched to a student.
- Review the resources in Pen Pal Place
- Join Groups in Pen Pal Lounge to

become a part of the online community.

- Check out some of the books from the book list to get a good idea of the levels and content for the first genre: Fiction.



Through shared goals we build trusting relationship where everyone learns.

Getting to Know You!

The first In2Books unit is Getting to Know You, where you and the students write a Getting to Know You Letter.

Whether you are a returning pen pal, or new to the program, you will write a Getting to Know You Letter before you are matched with your student. You will need to decide what you want to include in your letter even though you do not yet know your student. This gives you an opportunity to tell the student a little about yourself as well

as ask the questions to help them write their return letter.

Here are some ideas:

Share and ask questions about favorite fiction books. Fiction is the first unit so this helps get kids interested in the genre.

Tell students about your state. Teachers often put up In2Books bulletin boards showing the state locations of pen pals. .

Even though students will not be sharing the town they live in, It is fine to share information about a larger geographical area of the state



Pen Pals Needed.....

Nearly 300 teachers in 45 teams will be participating in In2Books this fall. That means we need 6,000 pen pals to match with every student. Wow!

Please help us spread the word! Ask family members, friends, and others who you think would enjoy helping children by reading and writing letters, while becoming valuable members of our online learning community.

Please direct those who are interested to our site to take the next steps.

Do you know of an organization that might be interested in signing up as a public service group. Send us the contact information of the organization at: partners@corp.epals.com

We are all in this together. With everyone's support we can make a big difference in children's learning experiences.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead,
