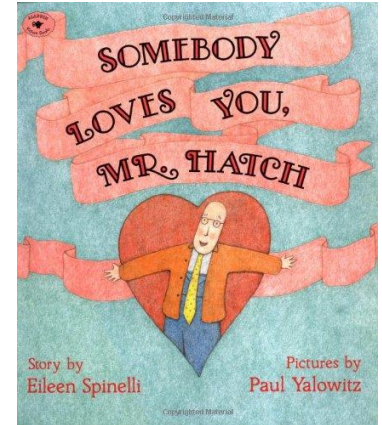


Book of the Month

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli - When the quiet, somewhat reclusive Mr. Hatch receives an anonymous valentine, he changes into a social and friendly neighbor and coworker. This book has such a valuable message in that people need to feel loved and appreciated and when they do, huge transformations can happen! Ages 5-8.



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP:

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel – Frog and toad are best friends and the five stories in this reader, capture many of their adventures together! Ages 5-8.

Help! A Story of Friendship by Holly Keller – Never listen to rumors! Mouse believes his friend snake is out to harm him when he hears a rumor but it is snake in the end who saves mouse. Ages 4-7.

How to Grow a Friend by Sara Gillingham – “Friendship advice given as gardening tips.” Ages 4-6.

I Can Help by David Hyde Costello – Each animal uses their unique abilities to help out a friend in need. Ages 2-5.

If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson – This book helps children see the differences between being kind and being selfish. Ages 3-8.

The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins – More and more friends join the cookie party in this fun book! Ages 4-8.

The Duckling Gets a Cookie?! By Mo Willems – The duckling got a cookie and the pigeon did not! How unfair!! Except that the duckling got the cookie for a very special reason – so he could give it to the pigeon. Ages 3-7.

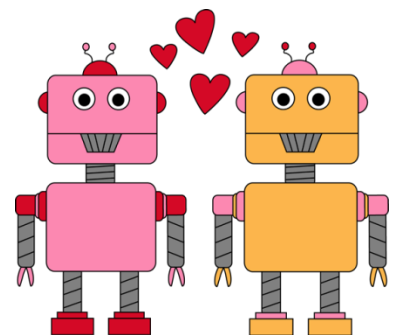
The Recess Queen by Alexis O’Neill – This is another story of transformation, this time of a school bully into a happy and sociable classmate. Acceptance always conquers fear! Ages 5-8.

Yo! Yes? By Chris Raschka – in a spare and brief exchange between two boys, a friendship is formed. Ages 3-6.



You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: www.piercecountylibrary.org.

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT STARS CLASS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH WILL BE ANIMALS AND LITERACY



Rhyme of the Month

Apple

Look at the apple I have found
So red and rosy, on the ground
We'll wash it and cut it in two
Half for me and half for you!

Song of the Month

My Hands Wave Hello

To the tune of – "The Farmer in the Dell"

My hands wave hello
My hands wave hello
Every time I see my friends
My hands wave hello!

Repeat with my feet wave hello – my legs, arms, head, tummy, etc. Be as silly as you wish!



Learning Ideas for February:

Classroom mailbox

Since Valentines Day happens later this month, you could set up a "valentines" post office. If you already have a writing center, turn your writing center into a post office (you could also turn your dramatic play area into a post office this month).

What you need:

Plenty of paper	Markers
Envelopes	Stickers
Pens and pencils	Stamps and ink
Medium cardboard box to serve as the mail box	

Encourage children to write letters to their friends in the room and to family and loved ones. It doesn't matter if they are able to write or not - it is fantastic writing practice (plus, they can also draw or decorate these letters). Post the "mailbox" in an obvious place and all letters go there. At the end of each week - or each day if you are really ambitious - take these letters and distribute them to the cubbies of friends in the room or to parents discreetly. Everyone loves to receive surprises in the mail! Encourage parents to send a short letter back...

Classmate quality charts

Give each child a large piece of paper with their name at the top -

- Print up qualities that you think describes each child and put them on the paper.
- Let children write their own qualities for their friends too!
- If they are not writing yet, write down what they say about each of their friends

Not only are you modeling writing for children, an important early literacy skill, but children view first hand all the good qualities that everyone sees in them and can take this chart home as a keepsake.