

## Mentor Tips:

# MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

Power Lunch Reading Mentors have answered the call to touch the lives of students in meaningful ways. While your relationship with your student is unique, much of what you can accomplish is typical of any healthy, productive mentoring relationship. Forbes Magazine recently published its own take on a great mentoring experience.

Titled “3 Tips for a Great Mentoring Relationship,” it can be broadly applied to the Reading Mentor/student relationship. With a bit of forethought, you can bring your best to your sessions with your student – and you can encourage your student to do the same. Here, slightly recast to be relevant to Power Lunch, are some ideas:



*Thomson Elementary's Cresencio Pineda with Reading Mentor, Claire Powell (Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP).*

### **Make your reading sessions part of your standard workflow.**

For both you and your student partner, your Power Lunch sessions should be seen as a standing appointment, which means both you and your student should treat it with respect. Help your student understand how important this session is to you, and be sure he or she respects the appointment – shows up on time, complies with the Reading Standards, and understands that you are both working toward the Goals you set for yourselves.

**Plan your conversations, but allow them to stray.** Before you arrive for your session, give some thought to how the session will run. Think of what you can share as you catch up with your student at the beginning of your time together. Pose questions in your mind that can spur conversations: “Did you read something fun in one of your classes this week?” “Did you get a chance to read for fun at home last weekend?” If the book you are reading leads you into interesting territory, use it as an opportunity to explore: “If you could see yourself ten years from now, what would you see?”

**The best mentor relationships are reciprocal.** Be sure YOU are getting something out of the mentor relationship. Over the years, mentor feedback has informed us that Reading Mentors often feel they are at their most creative, engaged, and entertained during the reading session, just through sharing stories and spending time with a child. Check your relationship regularly; speak to your School Coordinator about your highs and lows in the program. Power Lunch is most powerful when both mentor and student are enlisted!