

Friday, September 4, 2009

Dear Parent,

This week your child brought 2 books home called My Book and Shapes. Please take the time to sit with your child and have him/her read the books to you. If your child forgets some of the words, please help him/her by telling him/her what the word is. Ask your child questions about the pictures such as, "What did you color?" or "What did you sing?" I'm sure your child will be glad to tell you all about it!

Every week your child will be bringing small books home. This would be a great time for your child to start his/her very own personal library. Please take the time to sit and read the book with your child. Your child will be able to remember some of the words all by him/herself! Praise him/her when he/she is able; he/she will be so happy! Other books require you to read the words, and your child will supply the words that he/she remembers. Try to keep the books in a place that your child can get them out and practice reading them again and again. These books are theirs to keep and enjoy!

Each week in our class we will study a theme. This week our theme is "Shapes". Every day in class we will read a Big Book (your child's little book is an exact copy of the Big Book, only smaller). In addition we will read many other books that are related to our weekly themes. We do activities and have discussions centered on the theme.

If your child brings home papers that are not complete, they did not do the work in class. They may complete the papers at home if they wish but do not send them back to school.

Thank you to those who have completely filled out signed and returned the many papers that came home in that large packet on the first day. Those signed papers help us in many ways here at school. If you haven't had time, please read them, sign where appropriate and return as soon as possible, especially the emergency card. Thank you also to those who have donated supplies.

Be sure to label the things your child brings to school. It really helps when there are identical lunch boxes, jackets or backpacks.

Back-To-School Night is Wednesday, Sept 9. It is a chance for parents to come and find out what will be happening in their children's classes. Back-To-School Night will begin with a general meeting in the cafeteria at 7:00 PM. There will be two 20-minute sessions in classrooms for parents to attend. There will be a book fair in the library beginning at 6:30 PM.

Kindergarten Homework / Reading Logs

Your child's homework assignment every night is to spend 20 minutes reading to or with someone. To help fulfill this goal, I am asking that you assist him/her in keeping a reading log. I cannot overemphasize the importance of sharing reading experiences with your child. Reading to or with him/her is the best thing you can do to enhance his/her learning. Our most important mission this year is preparing the children to learn how to read. Your cooperation in providing your child with reading experiences in the home will be an essential component of his/her success in accomplishing this goal.

After 20 minutes of reading to or with your child, have him/her write the title of the story on the reading log. A reading log is a list of stories that each child has "read". Reading logs allow a child's success as a reader to be shared. *The child's writing will be at the developmental level of the child.* Please accept any valid attempt by your child to write the title. The adult who heard the story will then sign his or her name or initial the child's entry.

Please return the reading logs to school each Friday. We will have a celebration for all students who return their reading logs. New reading logs will be sent home each Friday and extra reading logs are always available in the classroom. If you fill up one side of the paper, there is room on the back for more. If you do not have one it is acceptable to just write on a plain sheet of paper. We are interested in the fact that children are reading or being read to in the home for 20 minutes each day.

To receive full homework credit the front of the Reading Log must be completed and returned to school. The student's homework grade on the report card will reflect the number of properly completed reading logs returned to school.

An important goal of the program is to have the children believe that they are readers. **Children are not expected to read each word on each page verbatim.** Depending on the ability of the individual child, there will be great variability in what each child can "read". Some children will be able to memorize the words, phrase, or sentence on each page. Others will be able to paraphrase a version of the text on the page. Still other children will give lengthy descriptions of the pictures on the pages. **All of these behaviors are considered reading.**