

September, 2022

Dear Parent(s),

In the months to come, the students will be developing their reading skills. They will participate in self-selected classroom reading, guided reading and shared reading. Regardless of his or her reading level, all the students will benefit from this daily practice. Some students are more confident in their reading abilities and will take on more difficult texts. Others will improve their phonemic awareness, their comprehension or their ability to use various reading strategies, while others will just discover the joy of reading.

In order to further encourage the students' progress and hopefully promote a love for reading, they will be starting a home reading program. This program will simply be called Home Reading and will appear as such in your child's *agenda* and on the homework page of our class website..

To start off, the students will be assigned texts (passage) based on word families and grapheme patterns. The distribution of texts will occur every Monday. The students will bring the reading passage home and have **four days** to practice reading it to themselves and to an adult (with assistance). They will then fill in the Home Reading Log Sheet and have it signed by the adult who listened to them read. Each text only needs to be logged in once. There will also be some type of accompanying work, such as phonemic skills practice or comprehension questions. **A sample notebook setup page is included (Please have your child follow the example).** Students have four nights to do the reading and accompanying work and return it on Friday. This should not take more than 5 - 10 minutes an evening. Students should practice all four nights (a couple of pages a night or rereading the passage).

Please note that this is just the beginning of our Home Reading journey. Some of you may feel the passages are too easy for your child and that they can read them easily and independently while others will need to do a "shared reading" because of difficult words. In either case, please remember that review and practice will benefit all the children and that getting them used to the routine of nightly Home Reading is also important.

In future months, students will be instructed on how to pick their own "just right level" books which they will choose from bins in the class. These will include picture books, non fiction texts and chapter books.

The number of books available is limited. It is therefore **extremely important that students bring back their book and book work every Friday**. This will ensure that all students have the opportunity to read from a variety of books and that work can be marked and ready for the next week.

When not being read, the books and work should be kept in the bag attached to the student's personal binder.

I hope you and your child enjoy this time spent reading together. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Happy reading and thank you for your cooperation.

Victoria Mackie