

Wild About Reading!



September 28, 2011

Dear Families,

We are ready to begin our reading incentive program, "**Wild About Reading!**" The goal of this program is to motivate children to read on a consistent basis to build their love for reading and become better readers through daily practice. This is a part of our third grade homework expectations.

This reading program will run from October to the end of February. Each month, your child will select an appropriate reading goal (number of minutes per month) and document daily progress on a calendar (minutes read **at home**). We recommend 600 minutes, which would be an average of about 20 minutes a day. (**20 minutes a day** should be the *minimum* of reading, although we know sometimes the kids may read for an hour at a time and other times end up skipping a day due to busy schedules, etc.) It is okay to count the minutes you and your child read together (alternating paragraphs, for example). At the end of the month the child should bring the calendar back to school. The teacher will check the calendar to see that the goal was met.

At school we have been teaching our students how to choose "GOOD FIT" (or "JUST RIGHT") books. Research has proven that readers who engage in consistent high-success reading have a higher motivation to read--more reading produces better reading! **Please make sure that the book your child is reading is appropriate for his or her reading level (not too easy, not too hard, yet challenging).** Refer to the back of this letter for descriptors of "JUST RIGHT" books. Also, ask your third grader to explain the "I PICK" method to you---a strategy that helps students to remember to choose a book that is just right for them.

The October goal for every child is to read an average of about 20 minutes a day at home, or 600 minutes for the month. *Of course*, a child may read *more* than that a day, and go beyond the goal of 600 minutes per month (we hope they do!). The next month's reading goal will be unique to your child based on how much they read in October, but never less than 600 minutes. Have fun reading!

Thank you,



The Third Grade Team



One more thought: Researchers have found that time spent reading is the main indicator of reading success as students progress through elementary school. Obviously, students who spend more time independently engaged in text are exposed to more words, more facts, and more background knowledge than their peers who only read when asked to do so with their teacher while they are in school. The moral of this story? Let's get our kids to **READ READ READ!**