

October 30, 2008

Dear Families,

It has been so exciting getting to our second grade community of readers! Currently, we are in the midst of an important unit of study in Reading Workshop. This unit focuses on readers and how they use strategies to figure out unknown words in order to better understand stories. During Reading Workshop, we have had several mini-lessons about topics such as, "How do you know if a book is 'just right' for you?" and "What should a reader do when he or she comes to a 'sticky spot' (unfamiliar word)?" These strategies (the same as all strategy lessons) apply to any reader, regardless of his or her level or the genre of the text.

Beginning **Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup>**, your children will begin bringing home their own self-selected independent reading books as part of their homework assignment. These books are kept in book baggies in our classroom. When reading baggies are sent home for homework, they should return back to school the following day. During the week, the children have time to select these books from our classroom library.

For homework, your child is required to read his or her independent reading book for **at least** 20 minutes. These books are to be read independently by your child. We will phase in a recording sheet for their reading beginning **Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Please support your child during his or her reading time by helping to select a comfortable reading spot that is free from distractions. Some children have also benefited in the past from a clock or timer of some sort that can also help to keep track of how much time has passed. It may also be a fun treat for you and/or your child if you take out your own newspaper, magazine, or reading book as well during this time! We all know that we can use some quiet time every now and then!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this new transition.

Warmly,

Tasha & Molly