

November 3, 2008

Dear Second Grade Parents,

We wanted to inform you of an addition to your child's homework routine. Beginning tomorrow, your children will be bringing home independent reading books as part of their homework assignment. These books are kept in book baggies in our classroom. They will be sent home each night and should return back to school the following day.

Each child will be required to read for at least 15 minutes each day for homework. They will also be expected to record their reading on a reading log. At this point, homework assignments are generally given on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are asking that children read and record each night of the week. Reading logs should return to school each day as well.

During Reading Workshop, children will be reading more challenging books that will provide opportunities for skill work under our guidance. These are books chosen for them based on their instructional level. The books they are bringing home each night are their independent reading level. These are books that children can read & understand with independence, accuracy & fluency.

We are currently in the midst of an important unit of study in Reading Workshop. Its focus is how readers use strategies to figure out unknown words in order to better understand stories. This is an opportunity for us to revisit the strategy work children have already learned and to introduce more sophisticated strategies that will help them read more challenging books.

At home, you can 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 to keep track of how much time has passed, and you can certainly join your child in this reading time by taking out a newspaper, magazine, or book!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about reading at home. We are looking forward to sharing the specific strategy work your child is doing at our upcoming conference time.

Best,
Colleen & Bonnie