

Monday, September 19, 2005

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today we are beginning our home reading Book Bag program. Most of you will be familiar with a home reading program from S.K. I hope you will be able to support your child with his/her reading efforts. This program shouldn't take a long time in the evenings, but should be an opportunity to read for pleasure and enjoyment. As early readers, children should be finger pointing (matching the written words with the spoken words 1:1) so that they are learning that words are groups of letters and that spaces separate words. Once 1:1 matching of words is secure, the finger will be taken away and put back in only when difficulty with the text arises. Looking at the illustrations, the initial consonant (first letter) of the word and thinking about what would make sense and sound right are strategies to encourage. Please don't encourage your child to "sound out" the word. As your child reads, remind him/her to make their reading sound "just like we talk" - phrased and fluent.

Your child will bring home a Ziploc bag containing a book and a file folder with a reading record sheet in it on which you record the date, title of the book, and the level of the book. These books should be returned the following day. There will be a charge for lost or damaged books. Help your child assume the responsibility of putting the Book Bag into his/her backpack after your reading session and returning it to school the following day.

Happy reading!

Mrs. Marnie Dutton

