

Home Reading

Dear Parents/Guardians:

One of the major goals for this school year is to help your child grow further as a reader, and you can play a big role in achieving this.

The best way for children to grow as readers is for them to read, so I encourage you to ensure that your child spends at least some time reading outside of school hours as often as possible (e.g. in the evening, on weekends).

Reading materials may range from short stories, novels, and magazines to comics, newspapers, and recipes. Information may come from many sources, including, but not limited to, paper "hard" copies of books from the library and electronic texts found on the Internet. All students have subscriptions to the "RAZ Kids" online reading program, and they can access an online library using the SORA app. All students should also come home with an English and a French book selected during their weekly school library visits. From time to time, students will bring home a flyer from Scholastic from which they can purchase books.

Whatever text your child uses, the most important goal is to "hook" your child on reading.

Whether your child reads on his or her own, or you read a text together, try to spend a few moments discussing the text. Doing so will give you insights into how well your child comprehends what she or he is reading. When you read together, you also get the opportunity to listen to your child read aloud. To some extent, you will be able to gauge whether your child is selecting books that he or she can read fluently (ask your child about the 5-Finger Rule for choosing books). When students read fluently, they read smoothly, without hesitation, and with expression. Generally, fluent readers find it easier to make sense of the text being read. Comprehension is, of course, the whole purpose of reading!

To help guide your discussions with your child, I have attached a "Q-Matrix". This chart has a wide variety of question starters that you can use to construct questions of varying difficulty about what has been read. The top left starters create the easiest questions to answer, while the bottom right starters create the most difficult questions. This Q-Matrix is also available in the "Language" section of the class website, for ease of access.

Thank you making this home-school connection a reality and being part of your child's learning-to-read journey!

Sincerely,

M. Basten

