

June, 2009

Dear First Grade Parents,

Welcome to First Grade! Over the summer months, we would like to invite your child to read as many books as he or she would like. To keep track of progress, we have included a reading log for your child to fill out each time a book is finished. Books read to your child can be included on the log.

Summer reading is a proven method of encouraging reading. Allowing your child to self-select books helps develop enthusiastic readers. Teach your child to use the "Five-Finger Rule" when selecting books. It is one of the best ways to test a book for readability. The rule is as follows:

1. First choose the book you think you would like to read.
2. Find a page of text somewhere in the middle of the book. Find a page with lots of text (words) and few or no pictures.
3. Begin to read the page. It is best to read the page aloud or in a whisper if possible while doing the test so you can hear the places where you have difficulty.
4. Each time you come to a word you don't know, hold one finger up.
5. If you have all five fingers up before you get to the end of the page, wave the book "good-by." It is probably too difficult for you right now. Try it again later in the year.
6. If you have no fingers up when you finish the page, then the book may be too easy a read for you.
7. If you have less than five fingers but more than one or two fingers up when you finish reading the page, the book may be just what you need to grow as a reader.

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your time together, and we'll see you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rutledge, 1A

Mrs. Tauscher, 1B