

## First Grade Summer Reading

Studies show that there is a direct connection between the amount of reading children do and the success they experience in school and beyond. First grade students are asked to read as many books as possible and to select one book to report on. Please include books that you can read on your OWN, as well as books that are read TO you. Your new first grade teacher will be asking you about the books you enjoyed this summer.

For your report, please be creative! You may use any method you would like, but there are a few guidelines: the report must fit in your school bag and identify the characters and the main idea of the story. Props, etc. are encouraged. The reports will be displayed outside of our classrooms, so please do not send in anything of special value. Keep it in a special place so you will have it to bring to school with you on the first day of school in September.

Parents, when you go to the library, ask the librarian to point out the *First Start Readers*, or *Step into Reading Books* at a level appropriate for your child to read on his or her OWN (or with a little help from you.) These are books that have one or two words or a short sentence with detailed pictures clues. Browse this section with your child and make your selection together. They usually have an identifying mark or are all in one section. Any selection that you and your child make based on his/her ability would apply to this reading list.

Libraries have sections of picture storybooks often called "Award Winners" or "Reading Rainbow" which is also another good way to select excellent storybooks. Many of these will be options for you to read TO your child. As you read to your child, pause throughout the story to actively engage their participation. "Why do you think he did that?" and other comprehension questions encourage good listening skills.

**Additionally, children entering first grade are required to read Mouse Makes Words - A Phonics Reader, by Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook. This book can be purchased through Barnes and Noble. The children should NOT report on this book, though. We will be doing activities for this book at the beginning of the school year.**

Have fun reading this summer. We look forward to seeing your reports!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Orsatti  
Miss Panaro  
Mrs. Thornton