

## Mrs. Van B's 3rd Grade

### Reading



Third Grade is an important year for reading development. In reading we learn to use comprehension skills and strategies, and we learn to read with greater fluency. In addition to the excellent literature from our *Open Court Reading* series, we read wonderful children's novels together in class during 'Lit Time'. This is the year children begin to read to learn. We have books for religion, social studies, and science. I will show your children how to read to learn. You can help at home with this skill too.

One of the best ways for children to increase reading ability and creativity is to be good independent readers. As part of our independent reading program, we participate in the Accelerated Reading (AR) program. This program is designed to improve student reading skills and ability. It allows children to read a variety of good children's books while monitoring their reading levels and providing feedback about comprehension. Each child reads and makes progress at his/her independent reading level. The library uses a "color dot" system to indicate the level for the AR books.

The children have 'AR time' at school and should do 'AR time' at home during the week too. In third grade our AR goal is to earn ten or more AR points per quarter at or above 85 percent correct reading comprehension. (Most children earn more than ten points.) That's a little more than one point per week. Your child earns points by reading AR books and passing quizzes at his/her independent reading level. Shorter chapter books can earn  $\frac{1}{2}$  point, and the children should be able to read two or three of these a week. Longer chapter books can earn one or more points and take longer to read.

An AR Practice Quiz Report is sent home after each AR book that your child reads. The points possible and the points earned for each book are at the top of the report. The total AR points and percent correct for the quarter will be in the middle of each report. This makes it easy for you to check how well your child is meeting the goal. Please keep in mind that your child's total AR points and comprehension percent correct is a part of his/her reading grade.

Third Grade participates in the Pizza Hut BOOK IT! Reading Incentive Program which kicks off in October and runs through March. Our reading goal is five AR points by mid quarter and 10 AR points by the end of the quarter. Each time your child meets the goal at mid quarter and at the end of the quarter, he/she will earn a Reading Award Certificate for a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut.

Our library day is on **Tuesday**. During library time the children check out three AR books at their assigned levels. After their AR goal is met, they can check out "free choice" books too. The children should read only one AR book at a time. The book needs to go home and come back to school **every day** until it is finished and an AR test is taken. Do not leave your AR books at home, especially on Tuesday. That is the only day that we are able to check out books, and your child cannot check out more books if he has overdue library books.

The children will have a chance to order from Scholastic Book Club. Periodically, I will send home a Scholastic Book Club order form(s). Usually the order form is due back in a week. If you want to place an order, fill out the order form and send it back with a check made out to Scholastic Book Club in an envelope marked with your child's name and 'Book Club Order'. The children love receiving books in the mail, but please do not feel obligated to order every time.

Third grade is a fun reading year where the children branch into longer chapter fiction books and discover the excitement of reading to learn about their favorite nonfiction topics too. Our goal is to develop a genuine love for reading by reading lots of good books!