Dear Family, **Quarter 2**

In 3rd grade, students are encouraged to read regularly. Reading often and from different kinds of books has many benefits. Research has shown that it is the best way to improve vocabulary, comprehension, and reading fluency. It also helps children become better writers and better students all-round. The best way to become a better reader is to practice.

One of our goals this year is to have each student independently read books of his or her choice regularly throughout the school year. Your child will also be given class time to read independently. However, we ask that they read every night for 15-20 minutes to improve their reading stamina (Quarter 1 & 2= 15 minutes & Quarter 3 & 4= 20 minutes). They should be reading "Just Right Books." A Just Right Book is a book that strengthens a child's comprehension and continues to build his/her growth as a reader.

The Five Finger Rule

1. When your child finds a book he/she wants to read, have him/her flip to a page in the middle of the book.
2. Ask your child to read the page aloud so you can help.
3. From a closed fist, hold up a finger each time your child misses a word.
4. Zero to one fingers means that the book is too easy. Two to three fingers means the book is at an instructional level — BINGO! — just right for her to grow as a reader. Four is OK. 5 or more fingers means the book is at a challenge or frustration level and not recommended.

Students will set a goal of how many books they would like to read during the quarter. To help keep track of the books students read at home, they can use the attached Reading List. At the end of the quarter, they should bring the list into class to total up books they have read at home, and check to see if they have reached their goal. (They will also include the books they have read at school for their goal).

We know that reading can be a very enjoyable experience. It can be an entertaining escape that allows your child to live other lives, travel to different places, imagine great things, think, relate, and relax. Please encourage your child to read at home each night and make reading a regular part of his or her life.

Sincerely,
The Third Grade Teachers

_____'s At Home Reading List

Quarter Goal: _____ **DUE DATE: Tues. Jan. 18th**

Genre Codes			
Fantasy	F	Science Fiction	SF
Traditional Literature (Fairy Tales, Myths, Legends)	TL	Biography/ Autobiography	B
Realistic Fiction	RF	Mystery	M
Historical Fiction	HF	Informational	I

My goal is to read _____ number of books during quarter 2. I plan on reading:

_____.

#	Title	Author	Genre	Just Right?	Parent Initials

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