



Dear 3rd Grade Families,

We have had such a successful beginning to our year! The 1st quarter has flown by and we have been busy setting up our new routines. Over the summer, I worked hard to discover what research says most benefits students as they become readers, writers and lifelong learners. I also wanted to create more independence in the 3rd graders and give them the opportunity to take a more active role in their learning. As a result, the structure of my literacy block may look and sound a little different and I am EXCITED! My goal is to introduce classroom routines and structures in a way that removes all of the guesswork from the children and allows them to concentrate fully on learning. In reading, the classroom structure I use is called *The Daily Five*. Has your child been talking about *The Daily Five* at home? The purpose of this letter is to explain to you what *The Daily Five* is and what you should expect to see at home.

The Daily Five is a literacy structure that teaches independence and gives children the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing. It consists of five tasks that are introduced individually. When introduced to each task, the children discuss what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like to engage in the task independently. Then, the children work on building their stamina until they are successful at being independent while doing that task.

The Daily 5 includes:

- 1. Read to self**
- 2. Read to someone**
- 3. Listen to reading**
- 4. Work on writing**
- 5. Word work**

Now that all five tasks have been introduced and the children are fully engaged in reading and writing activities, I am able to work with small groups and confer with children one on one. This structure is effective, the results are amazing, and the children really look forward to *The Daily Five* time. Ask your child about *The Daily Five* and see what they have to say. I anticipate your child will tell you about the class stamina, how we are working towards independence, and maybe you will even hear about some of the fantastic things your child has written, read, or listened to during our structured reading time. Your child will also have an opportunity to evaluate their own effort for each choice and during instruction.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to sharing more with you at our upcoming conference. Thank you for your continued support!

Fondly,

Miss Hewitt