

October 8, 2007

Dear Parents:

Today begins a new six weeks, and we will be working on many new skills. This letter is to inform you about some of those skills that your child will need to work on outside the classroom.

Your child received two new reading skills to work on at home. The first is a list of 500 sight words that your child needs to study. The goal for your child by the end of the first six weeks is to fluently read the first 100 sight words and become a 100 club member. Your child is also learning to be more aware of his/her reading fluency this six weeks. Fluency is the ability to read text with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. Fluent readers recognize words automatically, read effortlessly and with expression, do not have to concentrate on decoding, and can focus on comprehension. Therefore, your child will receive a passage every other week, beginning today, to practice reading at home. We will complete a one-minute timing on Monday and another on Friday. In addition, another reading skill that needs to be practiced is retelling the details of the story. When your child reads to you at home, have him/her practice retelling what happened in the story. Your child should be able to retell as many details as possible. Your child also has an accelerated reader assigned. Some time is given in class to read, but please have them retell the story to you at home. This is good practice and will help with comprehension.

Book-It, sponsored by Pizza Hut, began on October 1st. In order for your child to receive a certificate for a free pizza, he/she must earn 4 points. The Texas Roadhouse also will provide incentives which include your child receiving free children's meals. We appreciate these two restaurants providing incentives for your child to become better readers.

In Math this six weeks, we will be studying time and temperature, decimal place value, two-dimensional figures, fraction equivalency, and perimeter. We will continue to work on math facts until the Thanksgiving holidays. Your child should be working on 8 and 9 facts this week. We will begin division at the end of the second six weeks, so it is very important to be practicing the facts at home and keeping up with the due dates.

Your child will also be taking the writing TAKS test for the first time this school year. It is imperative that writing assignments be completed in a timely manner. There are many elements of a story that need to be learned this school year. The rough draft must be completed on time in order to add those elements to the paper after receiving class instruction. In addition, capitalization and punctuation rules must be applied in their papers as well as proper sentence structure.

If you have any questions about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to schedule a conference. Our conference period is 11:00 – 11:45.

Sincerely,

Miss Davis and Mrs. Knobles