

Date _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are all aware of the importance of learning to read well. Students who read well do better in school. Adults who read well do better on the job. When you can read well, a world of information is open to you. Reading well means reading fluently (accurately and at a pace that sounds like speaking) and understanding what you read.

At school, students learn to read fluently using the research-proven strategies of reading along with a proficient reader, reading a passage several times alone to practice, and monitoring their progress. You can use these same strategies at home to help your child become a fluent reader.

What do we know from research?

Reading along with a proficient reader improves word recognition and fluency.

Reading a passage several times improves fluency.

Self-monitoring of progress improves achievement.

How can you help your child become a fluent reader?

- **Have your child read along with you.**
Instead of just reading aloud to your child, read the words together. Pace your reading to match the rate of your child's reading. Direct your child to point at the words as you read together to make sure your child is actually reading. By reading aloud together, you will teach your child the unfamiliar words.
- **Have your child read alone several times.**
Have your child read a story or part of a story alone many times until he or she is able to read it fluently. With each practice, your child should read more fluently. The fluency and confidence your child gains will gradually transfer to reading new material.
- **Have your child self-monitor progress.**
Your child can keep track of the number of words read in one minute, the number of minutes or books read each day, or the number of questions answered correctly about a story. A graph or chart can provide motivation and enable your child to take ownership of his or her success. Your child will also benefit if you offer encouragement, specific feedback, or small rewards for progress. As your child improves, provide more difficult reading material. Monitoring progress will help prove to both of you that your efforts are having an effect.

Reading at home is a key factor in helping your child become a better reader. Thank you for taking an active role in your child's reading development.

Sincerely,
