

Books on the Go



December 7th, 2018

Dear Families,

All first graders at Cottage Street School will take part in our lending library program called "Books on the Go". Children will borrow a "just right" book from the classroom to practice reading at home. When your child can read his or her book fluently and with strong comprehension, the book is returned to class and another may be borrowed. We recommend keeping a book for 2 or 3 nights. We also highly encourage repeated readings!

Teachers will guide students in choosing books at an *independent* reading level. These books should be read fairly independently, with little guidance. At school, when supported by a teacher in a guided reading group, your child will be reading one level higher, at his or her *instructional* level.

Please be aware, starting this school year, teachers may no longer refer to books by their level. For example, I will not tell a child to select a level F book. Rather, our classroom library will be arranged in a way to help children find books around a similar range of levels (such as E-F). The reason for this decision is to prevent children from labeling themselves as leveled readers and to avoid competition in advancing reading levels. Our wish is for students to develop their identity as readers by choosing books that interest them.

Each book will be sent home in a large plastic bag. You will not receive a book log to complete. Please help your child establish reading habits for pleasure, rather than reading for compliance. Reading should not be a chore! If you and your child wish to record the titles of the books your child reads, as a way to celebrate their accomplishments, you are welcome to keep a book log of your own. You could even encourage your child to have a reading journal at home, where they write their thoughts about the books they read!

All children should be reading orally to an adult or older sibling at home on a regular basis. The "Books on the Go" program will help to assure your child's sense of accomplishment as a reader. Parental encouragement, patience, and support at home are instrumental in the success of this program.

Please help your child establish a daily reading routine. Be sure to use the "Books on the Go for Parents" packet as a guide to support your child. The first grade team, with a big special thank you to Ms. Pirrello, has created a video of helpful tips for you and your child to watch together. If you would like additional information about helping your child as a reader, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for your support and happy reading!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pelkey