**BUILDING READERS**

Pretty soon, I’m sure you will start to hear from your children how crazy Mrs. F is about reading and books! A central goal of my teaching is to establish a reading habit in the busy lives of my students. Why? Research proves that students’ ability to read well affects their performance in every class and later in life (Krashen, 2004). I am hoping we can work together to share the pleasure and benefits of reading for your child. **Please take the time to read this letter before signing and returning the last page.**

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1. **READING at HOME**

**I will NOT be sending regular reading logs home.** I have done a lot of research on home reading logs, and tried several things in the past. However, it comes down to the fact that the log doesn’t create readers … to some they are seen as a hinderance to their reading experiences and to others a chore that can easily be forged, forgotten, or turned into a nightly battle. Without reading logs, I can still determine if a child is reading at home by assessing their reading engagement in class and how many books they are completing. Periodically, I will send reading itineraries home for students to record and reflect on their reading, but these will only be for one calendar week.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Time spent reading is one of the most important things our children require, and I am asking for your help to support your children in reading at home as much as possible. **NOTE:** I am not asking you to take on this responsibility, but instead help your child to create the daily habit and routine of reading at home, this is their responsibility.

As a parent, I understand that life gets extremely busy, but I ask that you work with your child to **create a routine that has them reading 4-5 days/week for about 20 minutes. Remember that some reading is better than none at all.**  During this reading time, they can read picture books, chapter books, magazines and even though your child is getting older, they still LOVE to be read to! When you have time, read to or together with your child.

MY JOB:

In class, I will teach and support students on finding time to read, choosing appropriate and engaging books, building reading endurance, reflecting on their reading locations and choices. Students will have access to my classroom library books as well as the school library books to bring home. 

1. **STUDENT CHOICE of BOOKS**

In our classroom, students will self-select their own books to read and enjoy. Allowing students to choose their own books means they might make choices that we wouldn’t necessarily choose for them. I read many of the books and monitor what goes into our library, but I won’t know the details of every book that the students will read this year. One of my main goals is for the children to lose themselves in good books, and therefore am asking for your support in trusting the students to choose their own books

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Support your child’s reading and book choices. If you are wondering why your child is reading a particular book, talk to them about it and why they chose it. If you are concerned or curious, perhaps get a copy of the books yourself (ask me, I might have another!) and read and discuss it with your child.

MY JOB:

Throughout this entire year, we will discuss as a class how to choose appropriate books, how to expand our reading experiences, what to do when we feel like giving up on a book, when it’s okay to abandon a book, how to find new books and how to keep track of the books we’ve read. I will fill our classroom library with exciting, engaging titles.

I respect your role as parents and your family values, if you want me to more closely monitor your child’s choices, by all means, contact me, so we can work out a plan with your child.

P.S. We are always looking for more books! If you have books you no longer need or are using at home, and can bear to part with them, we will always welcome them into our classroom library.

Thank you for your support,

Nicole Frederickson

September 2015

**Building Readers**

**Please Sign & Return**

I have read the contents of this letter, and agree to be a partner in my child’s reading journey:

* I will do my best to help my child create a reading routine after-school to create a daily habit of reading at home.
* I understand that my child will be allowed to choose the books that he or she reads in the classroom.

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any comments/questions for Mrs. F: