

October 24, 2008

5H News

Reading

Book Groups

Students in 5H began book group reading this week. Children are reading assigned chapters for discussion groups and meeting four times over the course of the next three weeks with peers and the teacher for guided discussions. The goal behind these groups is for children to enjoy a book and be able to engage in conversation about it. In addition, children are working with me on strategies for “staying awake” while reading. We spent time in 5H talking about how your mind can wander when you read and how to re-engage in the text. We are developing note-taking

Upcoming Dates

Conferences

I am looking forward to meeting with all 5H parents over the next few weeks. If you have not yet signed up for a conference, please contact me.

October 31 Halloween Parade

November 10 Bridges Speaker

November 11 No School

strategies, discussion work and asking yourself questions while you read. We have practiced these skills and strategies with shorter texts in what are called “guided reading” groups. Please ask your child about his/her novel and even join in reading a chapter or two together in the evening. It is a great way to ask questions and enjoy a book discussion with your child!

Independent Reading

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of children being engaged in reading both in school and at home each day. Nancy Atwell, a reading and writing researcher, speaks to the need for children to be “in the zone” when it comes to reading. While reading, multiple parts of the brain are engaged in decoding, visualizing, and building and connecting to past information. We want children to be absorbed in a book - the characters, the story line, the deeper meanings.

I ask that even if a child is not able to complete the homework assignments for an evening that s/he does not skip reading. I rather a child have a note regarding the written assignment and spend the remaining time in an evening reading. Children should be reading a minimum of 30 minutes per day - not just Monday through Thursday, but every day. As I tell children, there is no “weekend homework” *cont. next page*

5H

28 Cameron Street
Wellesley MA 02482

PHONE:
781-446-6275 x424

FAX:

E-MAIL:
HEATHER_HASKELL@
WELLESLEY.K12.MA.US

Reading Cont.

or “vacation homework” in elementary school except to read every day. These hours spent reading really make a difference in a child's performance across the curriculum. Please feel free to join your child in reading together, even at this age! There are truly some wonderful children's books out there and kids really appreciate when you join them in discussing books. Also, some children may enjoy a recorded book while traveling in the car. Thank you again for all your support!

NOTE:

There are new email addresses for all Wellesley teachers this year – be sure to check for the new addresses (at left.)
Thanks!