



Grade 1-2

November 9, 2007

Dear First and Second Grade Families,

After an exciting week of Halloween activities and Parent-Teacher Conferences it is good to have a full week of school again. It was great to meet with each of you and talk about your wonderful children and the incredible work they do. We feel so fortunate to work with such a fantastic group of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

We want to take the opportunity in this Friday letter to share with you some information about Read Aloud and how it is an integral part of our curriculum. Reading aloud to children is one of the most important things we do in our classroom. Sharing our love of literature motivates children to read and build a love of stories and learning. Reading aloud gives teachers opportunities to model fluency and demonstrate various reading strategies. We read a variety of genres exposing children to all types of literature, in hopes of broadening their interests.

Read Aloud is also a time to work on our listening, communication and learning skills. One of the ways we do this is through a Think/Pair/Share. Children independently think about comments or questions posed by the teacher. Next they share their thoughts, feelings, or reactions with a partner. Finally the children report to the class what their partner shared with them. During this time, children are making predictions, discussing characters, making connections, strengthening their story comprehension and critical thinking skills. This activity helps build listening ability and fosters a sense of community where children value, listen and learn from one another.

As your children transition to reading aloud to you, we want to encourage you to continue reading to your children. Reading aloud is a wonderful way to support, motivate, educate and create independent readers. Enjoy reading with your children!

Have a lovely weekend,

Luisa and Amy

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P.S. We are collecting a Junk Construction Box in our classroom for a choice activity. If you have any reusable materials (toilet paper rolls, small boxes, egg cartons, fabrics, buttons...) to donate to our classroom, we would love them.

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