



## Helping Your Child Succeed in School

Now that we are in full swing, I am going to begin sending home a small amount of homework a few nights a week. This homework is intended to reinforce skills and concepts we are learning in the classroom and provide your child with opportunities for additional practice. The things I send home are also meant to strengthen the home-school connection and help your child begin to learn good homework habits.

Here is what will be starting this week:

- *Word Study Notebooks* – Tuesdays and Thursdays will be the nights that Word Study notebooks come home. More specific information about the assignments will be found in the notebook. Each time the notebook comes home, there will be a short literacy activity to complete. Please help your child remember to bring their notebook back the following day.
- *Class Made Books* – We have learned a lot about books, reading and writing by creating our own books. This week, I will begin sending these books home with the kids. The books should be returned the following day, so that everyone has a chance to take the book home.

In addition to these two new things, please remember the following:

- It is very important that you are reading to and with your child every night for a minimum of 10 minutes. This is THE MOST IMPORTANT thing you can do to help your child be successful in school. If you need suggestions for books, or even if you need some books, please let me know!
- Little paper books will continue to be sent home on a regular basis. When these books come home, please encourage your child to read the book as independently as possible. These are predictable, patterned books that we have practiced reading many times in class, so your child should have them mostly memorized. Encourage your child to finger point while reading and make sure that the word they are pointing to matches the word they are saying.
- The math Home Links that are sent home are meant to give you ideas for things you can do at home to bring math to life. Occasionally, the home link will ask your child to find something at home, draw it and bring it back to share. The kids do love to bring these back and share what they found, so I encourage you to have your child bring them back when directed on the sheet.

Finally, I understand that we all lead very busy lives and sometimes there just isn't enough time at the end of the day to get everything done. While these activities are important, please do not get overly stressed out over the completion of the activities. Working with your child for 5 or 10 minutes in the evening **will** help your child meet our academic expectations, However, this homework is not graded and I don't want it to interfere with family time, reading time, or bed time. I'd like to see every child complete every activity, but if there is a night when you can't get to the homework, it's OK ☺