



# Bobcats Read!



October 28, 2009

Dear Cedar Island Families:

We are again kicking off our Bobcats Read! initiative at Cedar Island to promote reading outside of the classroom. It is important that children develop healthy reading habits at an early age. With this in mind, our goal is to get children to read at least 15 minutes a day, 5 days per week. Attached you will find a calendar to log your child's reading. At the end of each month, please make sure the calendars get returned to the classroom.

Students who read at least 5 hours per month will receive a certificate commemorating their accomplishment. Teachers will also organize a reading celebration at the end of each month. There will be a "Principal's Challenge" for those children who love to read and want a greater challenge. The challenge is to read 15 hours during the month. I will personally present a certificate to each child who reads 15 hours or more during the month.

Reading *to* children is important. Therefore, you may count the minutes that you spend reading to your child at home. Listed below are some ideas of how to read with young children.

**The Bobcats Read! program will begin on November 2.** Our Media Center will help "kick-off" our "Bobcats Read" by inviting classrooms to the Media Center guest readers during the week of November 2-6.

Parents can get extra calendars off of our web site at any time.

Here are some ways that parents can support their "budding readers" at home during this initiative:

- Pick a story that repeats phrases. "Assign" your child a phrase to repeat each time you read a new part of the story.
- Read a short portion of the story or poem, then stop and let your child repeat the phrase.
- Take turns reading. For example: with an "easy reader book", you can read one page and the child can read the next page.
- Ask questions to check for comprehension. However, defer questions until you're done with the story or passage. This helps ensure that the child is fully engaged in listening to the story.
- Relate a book to one that was read in the past. Ask how the book is similar and/or different.
- Ask a child to imagine what he or she may do in a situation similar to that faced by a character.
- Books often evoke strong feelings that need to be shared. Offer your reactions and invite children to do the same.

Happy reading everyone!

Daniel Wald, Principal

