



September 8, 2009

Dear Parents of Title I students:

It's hard to believe that the summer has gone by so quickly, but here we are again at the start of a new school year! I am looking forward to another great year in the Title I Reading program. Here are some things you need to know about the program.

What is Title I?

Simply put, Title I provides extra reading help to students who are at risk for reading problems. Your child will most likely be seen in a small group of children in the Title I classroom. Title I gets its name from the Federal Government which funds the program.

Who are the Title I staff?

We are Mrs. Lynne La France, Reading Specialist, Mrs. Jamie Puchalski, Reading Specialist (arriving later this month) and Mrs. Cathy Franko, Reading Assistant. Filling in for Mrs. Puchalski until her arrival will be Mrs. Eileen Mulhern, Reading Specialist.

Title I folders

Many of you will be happy to know that new folders are on the way! They are colorful, heavy duty vinyl folders and hopefully they will hold up better than last year's folders. Look for the folder most nights. In the folder will be a book, or an activity. Ask for the folder every night.

Reading Logs

In the folder will be a Reading Log. On the reading log the teacher fills in the homework assignment. If you are the parent of a younger student, please listen to your child read at night or work with them to complete their reading activity. For younger students, check either No Help, Some Help, or Lots of Help to let me know how your child did. See the reading log for further instructions on this. For older students, students should mark the page number they read up to in their book. I will write in their test scores after they complete the book so you know how well they did. For both older and younger students, you should sign your initials and write in any questions or comments you might have for the teacher. If there is nothing new written on the reading log, there is no homework. Your child receives a new Reading Log at the start of each month.

What do the X's mean on the Reading Log?

At the start of a new month, I allow the children to choose from the prize box if they have no more than three X's. Three is o.k. Four is too many. (The prize box is a collection of toys, cards, and other odds and ends that kids seem to like. Last year the hockey pucks were a big hit, even with the girls!) Children receive an X if they do not get their reading logs signed at night or if they don't have their folder in class (I keep track on the board and put an X at the end of the month for each time their name appears on the board for the month.) There is no punishment attached to getting an X on the page. We understand that sometimes things come up and homework can't always be completed. It's okay and I tell the children it's okay to have an X or two. The X's are also your way of knowing that there was homework, but your child did not bring home his/her folder. You will be happy to know that almost all the children are successful in getting their reading logs signed at night and returning the folder to class the next day. Those who miss out on getting to pick from the box always have a brand new chance at the start of each month.

AR/BA Point Chart

For 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders only, you will see a graph where we keep track of Accelerated Reader and Book Adventure points. Accelerated Reader is a program used in the regular classroom where children earn points by taking a test on a book they have read. Point goals are set for each marking period and the children are rewarded for making their points. Book Adventure works in the same way, but it is only used in the Title I classroom. However, classroom teachers will accept Book Adventure points as well as AR points to help your child meet their reading goals for the marking period. In third and fourth grade, Title I homework and reading for the Accelerated Reader program are the same thing! I help the children manage their points and keep you up to date on how they are doing. Each box

that is filled in and initialed by me on the chart is worth 1 point. You can easily see where your child is at with a quick look at the chart! Whenever your child takes an AR or BA test, a report will be printed out on the computer. I keep the latest report in the folder for your information and mine. The BA report is the same every time with a list of test results, so you only need to look at the last item on the list.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Only Important Information

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade comes to Title I first thing in the morning. The time from 8:00-8:20 is the time we set aside for keeping track of AR and BA information. Class starts at 8:20. If you would like me to keep track of your child's Accelerated Reading or Book Adventure information as described above, your child must be able to arrive in Title I by 8:15 at the latest. If they are later than 8:15, I won't have time to fill in their point charts or go through their folder to keep them up to date. Some children are simply not able to arrive early and that's alright. In those cases, it will be up to you and your child to keep track and make sure that they are able to reach the reading goals set every marking period. Regardless of whether or not I am keeping track of AR/BA points or you are at home, the nightly Reading Log will still be included in the folder and your child will still be expected to read at home each night.

### What do we do during our class time?

Not all Title I students have the same needs, so we use different materials with different students. Some of the materials we might be using during class are Houghton Mifflin Extra Support materials which support what is being taught in the regular reading class including sight words, vocabulary and comprehension strategies; Superspeed 100 and Superspeed 220 which builds knowledge of sight words and increases reading fluency; Making Words and Words Their Way for building phonics skills; Guided Reading (leveled readers) to build early reading skills including fluency, phonics, comprehension, and vocabulary; and Tumblebooks, One Minute Readers, Reader's Theater, or books on CD to increase vocabulary and improve reading fluency.

### What is Tumblebooks?

Tumblebooks is a wonderful website where children of all ages can listen to books being read on the computer. The books are quality children's literature books like you would find in the library or the book store. There are story books which include the illustrations found in the actual book and Tumble Readables which are read along chapter books. As the books are being read, the words are being highlighted so that students can follow along with their eyes. A great way to use this program is to allow students to listen to a book, then they can read a page or two (or even the whole book) back to you with the sound turned off. This is great for fluency practice! Tumblebooks can also help students to get AR points. The AR point information is included with the book. Listen to a book and take the test! To find Tumblebooks go to [www.tasd.net](http://www.tasd.net) and click on Roslund. Scroll down until you see the button for Tumblebooks. There is a great variety of books on Tumblebooks. Preschool children at home will enjoy this website as much as your school aged children. New books are being added all the time. Please make it a point to explore this website with your child.

### Other Reading Resources

Also on the Roslund homepage you will find a button for Houghton Mifflin Reading which goes along with our reading series, AR Book Finder which helps students find AR point information and reading level of a book, and Compass Learning which provides extra tutoring in reading. Your child will receive extra information about the Compass Reading program during computer class.

### Contact Information

Contact us at 836-8270 or by e-mail at [lynne.lafrance@tasd.net](mailto:lynne.lafrance@tasd.net), [jamie.puchalski@tasd.net](mailto:jamie.puchalski@tasd.net), or [cathy.franko@tasd.net](mailto:cathy.franko@tasd.net). If you have questions about the information posted in this letter later in the year, the letter will be on our Roslund homepage. Click on the Title I button.

Once again, I'm looking forward to an exciting and rewarding school year in 2009-2010!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lynne La France  
Reading Specialist

