

September 3, 2013

This week our second graders will begin the Accelerated Reader Program. This is a Reading program offered through the library in which each 2nd grader participates. Your child was given a test to determine what level of books he/she should be reading. This level is called the ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development). The ZPD is noted at the top of the Student Diagnostic Report. When your child chooses an A.R. book from home (make sure it is on the list of A. R. books), the school or classroom library, it should be within his/her ZPD. Your child then reads the book- either silently or with you. It can be read as many times as you like. When your child feels he/she could answer some comprehension questions about the book, he/she is ready to take an Accelerated Reader test.

Each student will carry in their STAFF a notecard with their AR information- their ZPD, goal, log in username and password. Please do not write on this card. This notecard is for them to refer to as they get used to checking out books in their ZPD and logging on to take tests here at school. When students are ready to take tests, they should bring the book that they are ready to test on to school, or know the title of the book (this can be written on a separate sheet of paper until they get the hang of it.)

For each test your child passes, he/she earns a certain number of points toward a set goal. Each quarter, every student is given a goal to reach based on his/her ZPD. The goal that your child needs to reach by the end of the quarter will be noted on their notecard.

St. Albert has recently upgraded our Accelerated Reader program, and it now has some amazing features! AR is produced by a software company called Renaissance Place. This will allow your child to have online access to thousands of titles – you will no longer search for titles owned by St. Albert! Just go online to <http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx> to search by author, title, etc. This will open up so many more opportunities for our students. This program also has a special feature called Renaissance Home Connect, which your child and you can access outside of school from any computer with an Internet connection. Renaissance Home Connect is fun and easy to use. It allows the teacher, you, and your child to share information about progress in Accelerated Reader.

To log on to Renaissance Home Connect, go to the following website:

<https://Hosted316.renlearn.com/94759/HomeConnect>

In most cases, your child's user name is the first letter of his or her first name and the first four letters of his or her last name (For example: AFren for Allison French)

Your child's password is his or her lunch number. Again, this information is located on your child's notecard.

Also, if you'd like to receive emails showing your student's quiz or test results, click the Email Setup link in Renaissance Home Connect and follow the directions. To be sure these emails reach your inbox, add homeconnectautodelivery@renlearnrp.com to your address book.

The second grade teachers will include Accelerated Reader as a part of your child's reading grade each quarter. This grade will be determined by what percentage of his/her goal that he/she meets. If the goal is reached, the grade for that quarter will be 100%. If 80% of the goal is reached, the grade will be 80% and so on. This grade will be averaged in with all other reading grades for that quarter.

Accelerated Reader is a fun program that challenges each student. The students are very excited about it. Please encourage your child to put forth his/her best effort with this program! In the past, students making his/her AR goal all four quarters were recognized with a special treat!

We appreciate all you do at home to encourage a love for reading.

Ms. Finley and Mrs. French

Child's Name _____

I have read the information regarding Accelerated Reader. This information can be found through a link on the 2nd Grade Homework website, for future reference.

Parent Signature _____

Today's date _____

Sign and return to your child's LA teacher NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH