

FOREST FORUM 11/5/09

Teaching and Learning Highlights from the Forest...

Just Right Books

During upcoming conversations with your child's teacher, you will be hearing the term Independent Reading Level. This is a level at which your child can comfortably and independently decode and comprehend text. It is important for you to know what your child's reading level is so that you can help them make good book choices at home. There will be times when you, and your child, are unsure of the level of a particular book. Please use the information below to help your child choose appropriate books for their enjoyment.

How to Choose a "Just Right" Book

1. Look at the cover.
2. Read the title and the author.
3. Read the blurb on the back.
4. Flip through the book.
5. Read the first page.
6. Use the 5 Finger Rule—* The Five Finger Rule: read through a page in the middle of the book and each time you come to a word that you don't know hold up one finger. By the end of the page if you have 0-1 fingers up, this book choice is Too Easy. If you have 2-3 fingers up, this book choice is Just Right. If you have 4-5 fingers up, this book choice is Too Hard.

BLT Communication Plan

Our BLT represents the stakeholders of our community and it is our job to make sure you have the information that has been discussed at our meetings. Toward that end, highlighted minutes will be included in our Forum the week following our meetings. These will also be posted within the school in two places—the faculty lounge and the main lobby. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to one of our representatives (Ms. Malone, Mrs. Imbriani, Ms. Reese, Ms. Jones-Sands, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Pean, Mrs. Brandon, Mrs. Piliouras, Mr. Mederos) or leave your thoughts, suggestions, ideas, questions in our newly created BLT mailbox located in the Main Office.

October Star Coupon Winners

Kindergarten	Steven Vera, Karen Dial, Chenelle Kennedy, Avikar Khakh
1st Grade	Alexa Rambarran, Ritik Jain, Sean Mitchell, Tia Lynn Walker
2nd Grade	Amber Langley, Justin Cange,, Jonelle Hospedales, Quricea King
3rd Grade	Zainab Shahbaz, Corey Powell, Miranda Menzies, Justin Ahye
4th Grade	Gabriela Desir, Lianne Moze, Valerie Feminias, Ryan Prashad
5th Grade	Marc Macenat, Alyssa Ayee, Hana Amin, Ghani Karar
6th Grade	Aamna Atif, Penelope Ramos, Nicole Springer, and Matthew Egbuchulam
LC1	Brandon Persaud, Daniel Bautista
LS1	Luis Ramos, Jason Smikle
BCS2	Mary Kate Chioma, Cindy Ortiz

*****Congratulations to one of our Hometown Teams, the NY Yankees, on their World Series Win! In their honor, tomorrow (FRIDAY 11/6) will be New York Yankees Day here in the Forest. Participate by having your child wear any Yankee gear they may own. If you are NOT a Yankee fan (who isn't?????) please feel free to have the kids wear any NY or other team logo you have available. Blue and white are also a good choice to show our support as the Yanks march down the Canyon of Heroes!

PTA Updates

- Cookie Dough Sale is in full swing. Please make sure to participate. All fundraising efforts go directly to programs for our children.
 - 11/6 Reflections Submissions Due
 - 11/18 PTA General Meeting 7 PM
- It would be of great benefit for you to attend our PTA meetings. This month's discussion will include our grading system for the Report Cards. Please make every effort to attend.**

Upcoming Events

11/12 BLT Meeting 3 PM
11/16 & 17 5th Grade Social Studies Test
11/16-20 American Education Week
11/23 BOE Meeting @ Shaw Ave. 8 PM

Thanks!

Thanks to all of our parent volunteers for the cupcake contributions and time spent in our Snack Activity. This added so much to our Fall Festival and the children had a wonderful (and tasty) experience!