



Dear Parents:

2012 has gotten off to a great start. We have been blessed with good weather and the students seem to be ready to finish out this semester doing their best. We will begin another round of Acuity testing next week for grades 3-6. mCLASS assessments will also start for grades K-2.

In an effort to make it safer for our students, a new pick-up procedure has been created. Beginning next week, on, Thursday, January 12, 2012, we will start our new procedure for picking-up students at the end of the day. Information about the new pick-up procedure will be sent home with your child. Please be prepared to wait a little longer the first few days as we adjust to this new system.

Just a reminder:

- There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 16th, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (Snow Make-Up Day)
- There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, January 20th, for a Teacher Work Day.

Here are a few ideas to keep your children interested in Reading:

1. Play a word game in the car. Each person takes a turn reading as many words as he can from street signs, billboards, store names, garage sale signs, etc. The player reads the words aloud as quickly as he can. It's a fun exercise and even though it's not a book, it gets kids reading.
2. Research shows how important the introduction of a book series is for fostering your own child's interest in reading. For many new readers, discovering books that pique their interest can be the beginning of a lifelong interest in reading. Here are a few titles that many children enjoy:
 - a. Osbourne, Mary Pope. *The Magic Tree House* series. Random House, 2001
 - b. Park, Barbara. *Junie B. Jones* series. Random House, 2002
 - c. Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House* series. Harper Trophy, 1994
 - d. Wrede, Patricia. *The Enchanted Forest Chronicles*. Magic Carpet Books, 2003
 - e. Pilkey, Dav. *The New Captain Underpants Collection*. Blue Sky Press, 2002
3. It is important for parents to be readers, too. The impact that your own behavior can have on your children can't be underestimated. "Talk about what you are reading with your children. Share what you find most interesting and explain why. Ask your kids to share the parts they like with you from whatever they are reading. And talk about what you are reading with each other," offers one mom.

Mrs. Northcutt, Principal