

Dear Parent/Guardian,

For the past four years, students in Years 7-10 have participated in the REED program as part of Literacy. This is a reading for enjoyment program requiring students to read quietly for fifteen minutes. During the usual school cycle, this program runs each day except Thursday due to our assembly timetable. However, as we will be working on a slightly different timetable, we have decided for a change to how this program runs, to continue this good habit.

At the end of each school day, students at 3.30 are encouraged to select a book for reading that is not being studied nor has been studied previously. This can be Fiction, Non-Fiction, Graphic Novel, Newspaper or Journal. The aim is for the students to have a clear end to their school day and prepare them for the next part of their own program. Books can be e-books. Through our library, we have eBooks available through Wheelers. Students go on to our library page, go to the drop down box for Student Guides. Select Wheelers eBooks. Follow the instructions from there and you now have access to eBooks. I am also looking at one more program and will forward details once they become available.

Research supports the idea of quiet reading for enjoyment to raise the literacy levels of students across the board. Literacy is an aspect found in all areas of education and life.

At home, you should be encouraging your student to be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes every day.

**Parents:**

- Have your child record what they are reading, pages read each day, and their progress toward personalised goals on a student reading log. This helps you monitor their daily reading and helps them become accountable for their own practice.

**Things to Remember:**

- Encourage students to use different strategies while they read (especially lengthier, more difficult books) to help cement their understanding. This could include a reading log, chapter summaries, writing out plot timelines or storyboarding sequences from the book.
- Higher ability readers should be encouraged to read widely. They already *read well*, so the aim is to help them become *well read*. We encourage reading non-fiction texts, more challenging novels, newspapers, magazines and other materials.

**When it comes to reading and supporting children's literacy development, you may ask a myriad of questions.**

- **What can I do to help my child?** Sit near them and pick up a book yourself. This is the perfect opportunity for you to take a mini break from the stresses of the day.
- **How do I eliminate the stress associated with reading at home?** Reading becomes a learned behaviour meaning we are not born readers. We encourage you to just sit and model reading. As time goes on, you will find both you and your child will become less stressed.
- **She/he says they hate reading ... what can I do about that?** Find something that your child likes. Usually when we hate reading, it is because we have not found something that interests us. However, another reason we hate reading is that we struggle. Please feel free to contact either myself or their English teacher for some advice.
- **What can I do to help when English is my second language and I cannot read well myself? Or I struggle to read myself. How can I help my child?**
- No one said you must read English books. However, this could be a great opportunity for your child to help you improve your English. No one is born as a specific language speaker or the ability to read. Take your time and read what you can. You can do no harm. We are always here to help you too. Feel free to contact me.

Remember at the core of reading is the relationship and bond between yourself and your child that is enhanced through reading together. It only takes ten minutes a day to build this relationship.

Most of all, it is through interactions with you, that children learn new vocabulary, seek clarification of new understandings, and learn to comprehend their expanding worlds. Talk is the key to reading and writing success. Talking about the books with your child has a significant effect on literacy learning in general.

Any questions in regard to this program, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Regards

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