

READERS WORKSHOP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1) **Q What is a balanced-literacy approach?**
A It is a complete approach to reading, writing, and spelling/vocabulary. It includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- 2) **Q What is the philosophy of Reading Workshop?**
A The goal is to help students become avid readers. Students learn how to choose books that are 'just right' in level and interest, and they learn how to push themselves to read with increasing stamina, fluency, and volume.
- 3) **Q When will my child move to another reading level?**
A The goal is for students to independently read and comprehend a story that is 'just right' for them. Once this takes place, they will have a better understanding of what level they can read at, and whether they can move to the next level. Four times during the year, the students will be formally assessed to identify their specific reading levels. However, throughout the year, through observations and individual conferences, teachers *and* students will be able to identify which reading levels are appropriate.
- 4) **Q What is a 'just right' book?**
A A book that is high interest and chosen by the student. It is 'just right' when they are reading with 96% accuracy, fluency, and strong comprehension.
- 5) **Q What is a mini-lesson?**
A The mini-lesson begins the Reading/Writing workshop. This is the time when the teacher usually plans whole-class instruction on a specific strategy or skill. They usually last around 10 minutes, and contains four parts (found in the 'typical lesson' page on this site.)
- 6) **Q What are post-its used for?**
A This is considered the 'on-the-run' writing. As students are reading, they will jot down ideas related to:
 - questions
 - big ideas
 - predictions
 - inferences
 - connections
 - character traits
 - new words
- 7) **Q What about the Read-Aloud book?**
A The read-aloud is still an important part of this program, yet it no longer is independent from the Reading program. The read-aloud can take place during the mini-lesson, or at another time of the day. During this time, the teacher is demonstrating multiple reading strategies and thinking aloud about how to make sense of the text, while just being a natural reader.
- 8) **Q What is the parent's role?**

- A** Parents should encourage their children to keep reading those 'just right' books. In addition, parents should ask specific questions about a book their child is reading, as well as what they are learning about in Reading/Writing.