



DALEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

1150 MAIN ST. W.

HAMILTON, ON L8S 1C2

TEL: 905-528-8631

FAX: 905-528-8448 E-MAIL: dalewood@hwdsb.on.ca

Date: November 2009

Dear Parent, /Guardian,

I am sending this short note to ask for your help. In this package, you will find a simple reading log that your child will be responsible for completing on a weekly basis. While at school, your child spends time reading every single day in various situations. I would like to collect student data from home based on independent reading, to be utilized later for conferencing around Independent reading strategies. I am requesting that students begin reading at home for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. Your child should complete the calendar daily and have you sign it every Thursday. I will be asking students to bring these logs to school every Friday that I may check for completion. A period each Friday will be set aside for independent reading. I will sign the logs for that day. The goal is for your child to read at home for at least 5 of the 7 days in the week.

Independent Reading

Independent Reading is a time when students self-select and independently read appropriate books.

Independent Reading provides an opportunity to apply strategies that are introduced and taught during teacher modeled reading, shared reading, and guided reading. When materials are appropriate and students can read independently, they become confident, motivated and enthusiastic about their ability to read. Children make great contributions to their own learning when they are given some control and ownership of the reading process. The self-selection process of Independent Reading places the responsibility for choosing books in the hands of the student. This teaches them that they have the ability to choose their own reading materials and that reading by themselves is a valuable and important activity. While students are free to choose what they like, they must be encouraged to select a variety of literature and to select materials at their independent reading level. Independent means 95% to 100% accuracy as defined by running records. These materials should be able to be read without teacher support. It is at the independent level that comprehension, vocabulary extension, and fluency are improved.

Sincerely,

Ms. L. Coburn



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
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Ms. Coburn's Website www.hwdsb.on.ca/dalewood/coburn.htm