

Monday, October 8, 2012

Dear Parents,

It is time for our annual "Book It" reading contest to begin. As you know, all students in my Language Arts class are already required read each week for 100 minutes each week and submit a signed (by a parent or guardian) reading log each Monday. Students may read in five 20 minute sessions, or combine reading sessions. They must have at least two separate reading sessions per week. Students may read for more than the required minimum reading level. Fortunately, the "Book It" contest rewards students for this reading that they are already required to do for my class, so it's a win-win for everyone! Read, get good grades, and get free pizza!

The contest runs from October through March. Each student must select books at their reading level. The books read for the "Book It" must be "chapter books" that tell one story (not a collection of short stories or a magazine) but may be fiction or non-fiction. Also, books must be those not read previous to the contest. Books must be age appropriate as deemed by the parent. Students may begin reading their books for the "Book it" program the first day of each month, (or earlier in the prior month if they have finished the book for the month before). Students must finish one book per month and read for at least 400 minutes, but are encouraged to read continually throughout the month. After a student completes their book of the month, they should submit a book report to me. If a student wishes to count minutes toward the "Book It" contest, they must submit their reading log earlier sometimes so as to count the minutes for the correct date. The program closes at midnight on the last day of the month for each entry, so students should let me know if they plan to turn in last minute reading minutes for the contest so she can make it a priority. I ask for a 24 hour period at least for each time log entry and/or book report.

A classroom chart will record each student's successful completion of at least one book per month and reaching their minutes goal. Each student will receive a certificate for a free pan pizza from Pizza Hut for successfully completing the required reading for the month. This means 400 minutes and at least one whole book. Don't worry, just like the reading logs, the book report will count as a grade for the class each month, but students may turn it in whenever they wish within the month. Some months I may require a particular genre of book, however, for now, students may select a book of choice based on the above criteria. Just for future reference, the month of February will be an oral book report on a biography. Students will read a biography of their choice; and then dress up as the person they read about, and present their report to the class. More information will be distributed prior to February.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Ignotis