

# Accelerated Reader Program

It is our goal at Sterling Grade School to produce students who read for the sheer love and enjoyment of reading. Although the basic literacy skills can be taught, the JOY of reading each student must discover for themselves. The students can only make this discovery by reading. The challenge is to find effective ways to keep the students reading good literature and practicing reading skills until reading becomes effortless and automatic.

**Accelerated Reader (AR)** is one strategy we are using to encourage students to practice and improve reading skills. AR is a computer program that allows students to take a comprehensive test over books they have read. We have found that the students enjoy using the computers and the feedback they receive has proven to be very motivational for many readers. After a student has completed a test, he or she gets immediate feedback in the form of reading points. Books are assigned a point value based on the length and difficulty of the book and points are awarded (or not awarded) depending on how well the student does on the comprehension test of that particular book. The students are encouraged to set goals and accumulate as many points as they can in order to earn various parties or rewards throughout the year. Many of the teachers have set both individual and classroom reading goals for their students but it varies from grade to grade. **If you would like to know what your child's reading goal is, please visit with your teacher to get more details.**

At the beginning of the year we had the students (Second-Sixth Grade) take a short computerized reading test. **(The STAR test)** This provided information that helped us determine your student's reading level. We can use this reading level to help your child choose books that are not too difficult to read but yet books that challenge your reader to grow in skills. These are the books your student may take an AR test over. This is to help prevent the problem of older students reading pre-primers so they can accumulate points. We DO want students to get as many points as possible but even more importantly, we want them to read appropriate materials that help them grow as readers. Students may check out books that are not on their reading level....they just may not have the opportunity to test on them.

Not all books in our library are AR books. You can easily identify the AR books by looking for a colored dot on the spine of the book. The dots are color-coded according to the reading level of each book. If you look on the inside of the cover, you will find the reading level and the point value of the AR books. We want to emphasize that we encourage any reading and your child is not limited to AR books only.

## **AR is as easy as 1-2-3!**

1. **Student Reads a Book. Students choose books at their appropriate reading level.**
2. **Student Takes a Quiz.**
3. **You get immediate feedback on the reading and vocabulary progress of each student.**

Each month one student from each class is chosen to attend a pizza party in the library. Tickets are also drawn randomly for seven students to eat lunch downtown with Mr. Riffel. Students may earn the privilege of attending the end of the nine weeks party by meeting the goals set by the classroom teachers.

Please encourage your student to read at home and "exercise the mind"!!

## **Accelerated Reader Co-Chairpersons**

**Kay Comley and Kathy Booth**