

**Dear Parent or Caregiver:**

Reading is the key that will open the door to the rest of your child's education. All students need to develop strong reading skills that they will use every day, in and out of school. That's why we're excited about launching this year's *Reading Counts!* program. I'm sending you this note to let you know about how the program will work and some of the ways you can help make it a success for all of our students.

The goals of the program are simple and truly important:

Promote Reading Reading more books and developing a lifelong love for reading are important to your child's success.

Improve Test Scores Independent reading has a positive impact on student achievement, which has even been demonstrated on certain standardized tests. The more your child reads, the better your child is likely to perform.

Develop Language Arts Skills Reading develops and promotes comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, and writing skills that students will use in all subject areas. Your child will select and read a wide variety of books independently or as part of a group. After reading, your child will take a computerized quiz that will assess whether your child completed and understood the book. With help from the *Reading Counts!* management system, I will keep track of your child's reading and how your child performs on the quizzes. I will send you letters that report on your child's progress.

Although there will be plenty of classroom incentives to keep students working toward their goals, we need your help, too. Discuss the books your child reads. Read aloud after dinner. Talk about books you're reading. If you make reading a fun part of your daily life, your child is certain to succeed!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

