Monday, September 14, 2015

Dear Parents,

Enclosed in your child’s mail please find the first of many Scholastic Book and Interactive Learning order forms which will be coming home this year. I will be sending these home with the Kindergarten children approximately once per month. If choosing to order from any of these book clubs, please complete and cut off the order portion of the forms and return them via Agenda in a sealed envelope marked “Scholastic Book Order”. If ordering from more than one book club, payment for all orders can be combined and made with one cheque payable to Scholastic Canada, Ltd. New this year, is the quick and easy, online “Parent Pay” by credit card option. Here’s how it works:

1. Parents visit parentpay.scholastic.ca to complete the payment for their Reading Club order, then submit their order form to their child’s teacher.
2. Teachers place class orders as usual and when they’re ready to submit, the parent payments are already there waiting to be applied.
3. Books arrive in the classroom and Bonus Coupons are deposited in the teacher’s Bonus Bank, just like always!

Here is a sample Pay Parent data entry screen:

Find Your Teacher
Enter Province
Alberta
Enter City
Red Deer
Enter School
ST ELIZABETH SETON SCH
Enter Teacher
Emma Abel
It's just that easy!

Our first book order is due on:

**Wednesday, September 23rd.**

Each book club features books at a variety of reading levels. Some stories are very simple and are meant to be enjoyed by the children independently. Other books are levelled and appropriate for emergent readers. Of course there are many, many selections that can be read aloud by parents. Scholastic has also developed quite an extensive electronic catalogue that contains computer CD-ROMs as well as stories on CD and other educational electronic gaming products. These items can be found in the catalogue called "Interactive Learning". Generally speaking the book clubs are levelled this way:

- **Elf** --> Pre-K / Kindergarten
- **See Saw** --> Kindergarten / Grade One
- **Lucky** --> Grade 2
Parents are under no obligation to purchase books from these clubs. Most, if not all of these books can be found at our local library, and with parent’s permission, children of Red Deer residents can get their own library card for free.

Whether they be purchased from book clubs or borrowed from the public library, exposing children to books at a young age helps set a strong foundation for future reading and writing success. As an added bonus the classroom gets free books from these orders!

Please recycle your unused flyers whenever possible.
Here are a couple of activities you can do with your children before you get rid of all that paper!

✓ Go for a picture walk looking at the titles and cover illustrations (guessing what the stories might be about).
✓ Find non-fiction stories that may spark your child’s curiosity about a particular subject; go to the library and sign out books to learn more about it.
✓ Have your child make a wish list of possible books they may want for Christmas, birthdays or "just because" gifts by cutting out the book pictures and gluing them to a sheet of paper.
✓ Play "I Spy" and hunt for pictures on the pages.
✓ Copy words from book titles.
✓ Draw pictures about the characters and book subjects.
✓ Count the number of books on a page or in a series.
✓ Have your child describe "why" they would like a particular book.

Yours in reading, writing and language development,

Mrs. Abell