September Family Project:
Make a Treasure Box and a Book Nook

Once a month, we will be sending home a special project for your child to complete. The family projects are special because your child gets to complete a fun activity with you and other family members. Did you know that research shows that one of the best predictors of a child's reading success is how much time they actually spend reading?

Your first family project is to create your very own Treasure Box and Book Nook. A Book Nook is a special spot where your child can go to read with someone or read independently. All they need is a cozy spot away from it all where they can relax and escape through a book. Help your child fill that spot with a blanket, a small lamp, pillows, and/or anything else that makes your Book Nook a comfortable place to be.

Treasure Box: Please get a cardboard box with a lid- like a shoe box. This will transform into your child's very own "Reading Treasure Box." Most weeks, your child will bring home small books created in class. Keep these in their Treasure Box of Books and store them in your Book Nook. By the end of our time together in Kindergarten, your child will have quite a library of books that they will treasure and read repeatedly and independently. Your child may choose to paint his/her box, cover it with contact paper, construction paper, wallpaper, fabric or use his/her imagination to decorate! Please feel free to assist your child creating their box. Some ideas might be to use sequins, beads, stones, gems, stickers, etc. The boxes should be completed by Tuesday, September 27, and returned to school to share on that day. Your child will receive a key to the treasure box to be kept with it. This is meant to remind them that the "key to reading success" is to practice reading every day, at home and at school! The boxes will be on display during the week they create them. They will be sent home on Thursday of that week.

Please note that while daily reading practice with our "little books" at home is critical, it is also important to continue reading nightly bedtime stories to your child as well. These books will be above their reading level but not above their "listening level." Most of the children are now old enough to enjoy listening to longer, more complex picture books and simple chapter books. Interesting books that stir the imagination or tickle the funny bone motivate children to want to learn to read independently. Think of your bedtime read-aloud as an advertisement for reading!

Happy reading! Mrs. Urbaniak

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