

Dear Parents of incoming First Grade Students,

We were so glad to host a "visit day" in our classroom prior to the graduating kindergarteners' departure for summer break and are looking forward to the 2019-20 school year with them! Along with this letter we have enclosed materials needed to complete the required summer work assignment.

There is a set of **single letter phonogram cards** (letters A to Z) in your packet. These are to be used "flash card style"....You hold up one card at a time, so that your child sees the **large font letter** on the front while you see the back side which contains directions for speaking (9 of the 26 letters make more than one sound, the 5 vowels and several of the consonants).

It is important that the children say the sounds exactly as they appear on the back of the cards because we will do this in unison as a class. Even though most of the students know most of these letter sounds, it is best to start out with you reading the exact sound sequence on the back of the card and your child repeats after you. This ensures that all of the children are speaking the same sounds in the same order in September.

As your son/daughter becomes fluent, you may stop saying the sound first and just hold up the card for them. If he/she becomes fluent and you want to add the *next step*, you can try having your child write the letter, without seeing the card, as you make the sounds on the back of the cards. Again, it is important that you speak the sounds as they appear on the back of the flash cards. Early in the new school year, the students will receive a *second* set of cards containing the multi-letter phonograms (sh, th, ow, igh, etc.). Mastering these in reading and spelling is a big part of the first-grade curriculum. Your summer work together will definitely get your child off to a great start to the new school year!

The second document in this packet is a **Reading Log**. As you will see on the log, please record books that your **child reads to you** as well as all books **you read to them** while they follow along silently. Learning to be a proficient reader has many components and reading aloud to your children is key to their success. It builds vocabulary, trains the eye to move left to right, models good voice tone and inflection and develops a love for reading -- and of course, reading together quickly becomes a cherished time for parent and child ☺. When you read to your child, try to use a variety of sources (fiction, non-fiction, picture books and chapter books). This variety is important in building vocabulary and attention span.

The children are to bring the enclosed **flash card** deck and **completed reading log** on the **first day** of school. We hope you have a restful yet fun summer and pray for God's blessing and protection on your family!

Mrs. Raymundo & Mrs. Re