

## 2009-10 INFORMATION FOR FOREST PARK PARENTS ABOUT ACCELERATED READER

- ★ **Accelerated Reader (A.R.)** is an individualized, self-paced reading program. It is a national program offered by Renaissance Learning.
- ★ **Accelerated Reader books** are regular books available in the Forest Park Library, the public libraries, bookstores, and in many classrooms. Renaissance Learning evaluates and constructs comprehension quizzes for each book.
- ★ Each book is given a **GRADE LEVEL**—e.g., 3.5—and a **POINT VALUE**—e.g., 4.0. A 3.5 GRADE LEVEL means a child in the 5th month of 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE should be able to read this book.
- ★ **Students select books** of their choice, **complete computerized quizzes**, and **earn points** if they earn at least 70% on a quiz. *For example, a student who scores 90% on a 4-point book earns 3.6 points.*
- ★ At Forest Park, we recognize student reading achievements with **six color-coded goal levels: brown, red, white, blue, yellow, or gold**. These levels are adjusted for grade-level. Fourth graders, for example, need 36 points to reach gold, while first graders need only 18 points.
- ★ At the end of each quarter, we will calculate points and award prizes based on these levels.
- ★ The A.R. bulletin board in the cafeteria will post the student achievement in A.R. as well as the photos of the top readers in each grade. The top class in each grade will get to keep the AR trophy for the next quarter.
- ★ **Special prizes for 2009-2010**
  - *Brown levels:* bookmarks
  - *Red levels:* pencils
  - *White levels:* Homework Pass (talk to teacher in advance about using)
  - *Yellow levels:* Raffle entry for \$\$\$ gift cards
  - *Blue levels:* Free Dress Day Pass (talk to teacher in advance about using)
  - *Gold levels:* Pencil cases (1<sup>st</sup> gold); Cinch sacks (2<sup>nd</sup> gold); I Read at the Park T-shirt (3<sup>rd</sup> gold); water bottles (4<sup>th</sup> gold); autographed books by local authors (5<sup>th</sup> gold); personal poster (6<sup>th</sup> gold). Also---pizza parties and extra recess!!!!
- ★ **Cut-off dates:** October 22, 2009; January 14, 2010; March 18, 2010; May ??, 2010



**We Read at the Park**

## Some FAQs for Accelerated Readers:

★ **Students only earn points if their score on a quiz is 70% or better.**

Encourage your children to read at or slightly above their reading levels. All students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade complete STAR assessments that identify their reading levels. If students read books that are too difficult, they may score poorly on a book's quiz. Likewise, if students read books that are too easy, they are less likely to improve their reading abilities.

★ **A student may take each book's quiz only once.**

Students should take a quiz only after completely reading the book. Also, they should try to take a quiz as soon as they've completed the book so as not to forget key elements. Especially as some of the younger readers start moving into longer books, they should be encouraged to refresh their memories of the beginning of a book before sitting down to take its quiz. Remember: each student gets only one chance on each quiz.

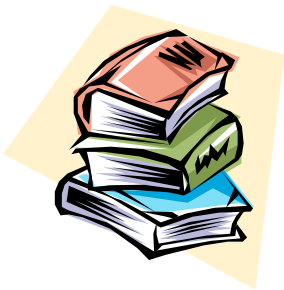
★ **This program is for independent readers.**

It is acceptable to let children take quizzes every once in awhile on books they have had read to them on tape or by another reader. However, such books should be books the student could read on his or her own.

★ **A.R. will start in first grade.**

The first grade teachers will get students started with AR as they are ready—generally by the end of the fall semester.

★ **You can select AR books at home by using the AR Book Finder** on the LRSD's Forest Park page: go to <http://www.lrsd.org> and select Forest Park. On the school page, on the right column, select *Accelerated Reader List* and then select the link on the next page.



You will get a Quick Search option. Type in some part of the title or author's name.

Print out the page or write down the quiz number for your child to use to streamline the process at school.

Use the Advanced Search and Collections options to locate books by the same author or in the same series, that have been awarded prizes, or that are on recommended reading lists.

Note: The vast majority of books, fiction and non-fiction, are available as AR quizzes. If you can't find the book on the list, try another strategy with the search engine.

★ **Have questions or want to help? Contact JoAnne Matson or Wendy Wood**

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