

## Library News

Welcome back to a new year – I am excited about continuing our programs from last year including the Bluebonnet program and the Accelerated Reader program. I have included information with this newsletter about the Accelerated Reader program and some new features that go along with it, including a book finder search and the home connect program.

Next week we will celebrate the birthday of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and kick off our Birthday Bookshare program. This program provides you with the opportunity to honor your child's birthday by purchasing a special book to share with your child at home and then donate back to our library collection. Many of the students come in each year and look for their birthday books. Information letters and order forms will be coming home next week so please watch for these in your child's folder. All selections and orders are due September 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you love to read to others our Read Aloud program is for you. This program for Kindergarten through third grade invites parents to come in and share their love of reading with their child's class. Please watch for letters from your child's room parent with dates and times. Other fall events include the used book sale at Fall Fest and the Book Fair at the end of October.

Last but not least I would love to have you visit and volunteer any time during the year, whether it is one day a week or just for special events such as the book fair, your help is always a blessing.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Stone

# A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

## **What is Accelerated Reader?**

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his own level and reads it at his own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers and librarians help your child choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may help him:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before he takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student, or even have the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

## **What is the ATOS Book Level?**

Book Levels are determined using the ATOS readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader in the fifth month of school. (The content of the book, however, may or may not be appropriate.

The Interest Level will give you a recommendation of the appropriateness of the content.)

## **What is the Interest Level?**

To help you choose the books most appropriate for your children, Accelerated Reader quizzes are divided into three Interest Levels: Lower Grades (LG), Middle Grades (MG), and Upper Grades (UG). The Interest Levels are based on the recommendations of the publisher and/or literary book reviews by professional organizations. However, the final decision on whether the content of a book is appropriate for a particular child is left to parents, school librarians, and teachers.

## **How do I find an Accelerated Reader Book**

Just log in to [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com) to access the Accelerated Reader book finder. With a few clicks of the mouse you will be able to search for AR titles that are appropriate for your child.

## **How do I monitor my child's reading practice?**

Students and parents can view their reading progress through the AR Home Connect program. This program will allow you to view goals, results of the last quiz taken, and overall progress; find books that have Accelerated quizzes and view "My Bookshelf" which shows the books on which quizzes have been taken.

To reach the Home Connect page login to

<https://Hosted117.renlearn.com/1879225/HomeConnect/Login.aspx>

You will use the same user name and login that your student uses to access the information in the Home Connect program. The Home Connect page also provides a link to the AR book finder program.

If you have any questions regarding Accelerated Reader or any of the other AR programs please feel free to contact Mrs. Stone at [nstone@seascc.org](mailto:nstone@seascc.org).

Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education.

Mrs. Stone