

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed spending quality time with your child. I know that each year of your child's schooling presents new expectations and routines for you and your child to become familiar with. I will be introducing classroom routines and structure in a way that removes all of the guesswork from the child and allows them to concentrate fully on learning.

In Reading, the classroom structure I will use this year is called Weekly 5. Soon your child will be talking about the Weekly 5 at home. The purpose of this letter is to explain to you what the Weekly 5 is and what you should expect to see at home.

The Weekly 5 is a literacy structure that teaches independence and gives children the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing. It consists of five tasks that are introduced individually. When introduced to each task, the children discuss what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like to engage in the task independently. Then, the children work on building their stamina until they are successful at being independent while doing that task.

These are the five tasks:

- Teacher Time
- Work on Writing
- Technology Time
- Word Work
- Read to Self

Note: Although there are five tasks, the time allowed for Reading in our daily schedule only allows for three rotations so there are some tasks we may only get to once or twice a week. You may have heard the term "Daily 5" and it is essentially the same thing!

When all five tasks have been introduced and the children are fully engaged in reading and writing, I am able to work with small groups and confer with children one on one. It is at this time that your child will have a choice in the order that they complete their Weekly 5 rotations. Apart from our whole class mini-lesson, Read to Self (required daily) and scheduled teacher time for small group instruction and individual conferences, your child will rotate between up to two additional activities during Reading time each day. This structure is effective, the results are amazing, and the children look forward to Weekly 5 time. One thing you may notice is a decrease in the number of worksheets your child brings home. Although worksheets keep students busy, they don't result in the high level of learning we want for your child.

Ask your child about Weekly 5 and see what they have to say. I anticipate your child will tell you about the class stamina and how we are working towards independence, and maybe you will even hear about some of the fantastic things your child has written, read, or listened to during our Weekly 5 time.

Thank you for your continued support!  
Miss Bennett