**The Blue Book Bag Take Home Program**

**Purpose**

The Blue Book Bag Program (BBBP) is an excellent time for you and your child to read and discuss literature at home. The BBBP helps families develop, practice and sustain good reading practices at home.

The books included in the BBBP were updated for the 2015-2016 school year. The list of 30 titles reflect the Common Core State Standards.

* Half of the titles are fiction (books that tell stories) and half are non-fiction (books that give information). Reading more non-fiction texts will help your child learn about the world around them.
* Some of the books are challenging which will provide opportunities for more in-depth discussions.
* Increased emphasis on building vocabulary.
* Nearly all of the books and authors are on Common Core Text Exemplar lists.

**How the BBBP works**

Every ***Friday*** your child will come home with a new book from the BBBP.

* The parent and child should read the book together on at least two different days. The book can be read to your child, by the child out loud or a combination of both. It all depends on the level of your child’s reading ability and the level of complexity of the book. If you can’t read to your child, please find another adult or an older child to help.
* The parent and child should talk about the book together. This can be done before starting to read the book, whilst reading or after reading it. If the book is fiction, use the list of suggestions, “General Questions when Discussing a Fiction Book”. If the book is non-fiction, use the list of suggestions, “General Questions when Discussing a Non-Fiction book”.
* After your child has heard/read the story and discussed it on at least two occasions, help your child with the Story Response page in the homework packet. Your child writes the title of the book and author at the top of the page. Then your child draws a picture about the story.
* Each book has a list of “Specific Questions” inside the front cover of the book. Suggested sentence starters/prompts are given for each individual book. Use these starters when writing sentences. Your child writes independently using his/her “best guess” spelling. The parent should add a conventional “grown up” spelling under any misspelt words. Please encourage your child to use all the sentence prompts and to write on both sides of the Story Response page.
* Please help your child return the Blue Book Bag to school every ***Thursday*** morning so that the next student in the class can receive it on time.
* Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions about the Blue Book Bag Program.

We hope both parents and children will be excited to open up the Blue Book Bag each week and enjoy the wonderful books.

Enjoy!

Landels First Grade Teachers