



Dear Parent or Guardian,

This year I am excited to introduce the *Making Meaning*[®] program to your child. *Making Meaning* is a new reading program designed to help children build their reading comprehension and social skills. The children hear books read aloud and discuss the stories with partners and as a class. This year your child will learn several comprehension strategies such as retelling, visualizing, and wondering/questioning. The program is helping our class become a community of readers by making everyone feel welcome and safe.

At the end of each unit in the *Making Meaning* program, you will receive a letter telling you about the most recent reading comprehension strategy and social skill your child has learned. Each letter will also include ways to support your child's home reading life.

Our class just finished the first unit of the program, which focuses on the children's reading lives. The children talked about what they like to read, heard stories read aloud, and discussed those stories. The children also learned to make connections between the stories and their own experiences. The program calls this reading comprehension strategy *making connections*. When children make connections between the stories they hear and their own lives, they are able to understand the stories better.

During the first unit, the children also practiced the social skill of listening carefully to others. Listening well to others is a skill that helps students learn and become active members of the reading community.

Here are some ways to build your child's reading life at home:

- Make weekly trips to the local library to borrow books.
- Set aside a time to read together every day.
- Stop every so often while reading aloud to discuss what you both are wondering about the story.
- Model good listening by paying attention to your child when the two of you discuss the story.

Reading and discussing books is one of the most important gifts you can give your child. I hope reading together every day can be an enjoyable time for you and your family.

Sincerely,