

## MAKING MEANING COMPREHENSION:

This year I am excited to introduce the Making Meaning program to your child. Making Meaning is a reading program that 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.

Your child will learn several comprehension strategies such as: retelling, visualizing, and wondering/questioning. The program is helping our class to 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 skills that your child has learned. Each letter will also tell you how you can support your child at home.

The first week of the program focuses on the children's reading lives. The children will talk about what they like to read, hear a story read aloud, and discussed the story.

The children will also learn to make connections between 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 will practice 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. (or do Raz Stories)
- Stop while reading to discuss what you are both 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 to your child! I hope reading together every day can be an enjoyable time for you and your family!!

**MAKING MEANING VOCABULARY:**

In addition to the Making Meaning reading program, we will be using the Making Meaning Vocabulary program in our classroom. In the vocabulary program, students will learn useful and interesting words selected from the same stories we are reading in our comprehension program. Children of all ages enjoy learning new words, and research shows that learning words boosts children's speaking, reading and writing skills.