



August, 2009

Dear Parents,

Please receive a warm welcome back from the **English Department**. We are very excited about this upcoming year. Our department continues to move forward making constructive curriculum changes that will positively impact your child's English learning experience.

Most importantly, we have developed the **Book in a Bag** program as a response to teacher and parent interest in providing children with additional appropriately leveled reading material. The focus of the program draws upon research indicating that children require daily reading at their reading level. This program is the culmination of two years of preparation to create a leveled reader library within the English Department. Although the library is not complete, we have the necessary materials for the first stage of implementation! The program will also create consistency in homework expectations throughout the English Department because it will be based on the Book in a Bag program.

This year will be no exception in our need for **volunteers** in the English Department! We will especially need help on Mondays and Tuesdays with the Book in the Bag program. Additionally, classroom reading volunteers are always a great asset. Please e-mail me at teresaw@intlschool.org if you are interested!

In order to minimize inconvenience to parents, First Grade parents can expect their child's reading to be assessed the **first day of school, September 9th**. Class lists will be available the next morning. Returning students will be in different groups from last year and will be grouped for their educational and social benefit. All grades will receive their **first English class on Thursday, September 10th**.

If we don't meet before, we look forward to seeing you on **October 1st at 6:30pm for English Curriculum Night!** You will have a chance to meet new staff and to receive detailed information about all that is happening in the classroom.

Best Regards,

Teresa Wirsching
Lead English Teacher