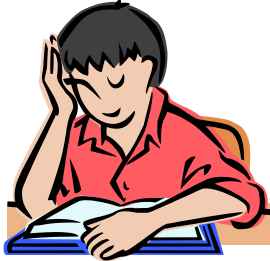


Parent's Guide to Northwood's Accelerated Reader Program



The Accelerated Reader (A/R) program is proudly sponsored by the Northwood Elementary PTA. This bulletin will answer some questions you may have about the program.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a reading enrichment program targeted to encourage students to read more often, improve reading comprehension, and develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime. This program is available to all students in grades 2-5. First graders become eligible for the program during the second semester, at the individual teacher's discretion.

All A/R books in the Media Center are marked by an orange dot on the spine. On the back cover of each book is a label showing the reading level and the number of A/R points possible for that book. The points range from .5 to 44, depending on the reading difficulty and length of book. **Lists of all A/R books are available in the Media Center, sorted alphabetically, by reading level, and by author. The A/R book list is also available by title, author, or A/R level on the Northwood Elementary Media Center website, www.northwoodmedia.weebly.com, and at both Roswell libraries.**

Each time a child reads or is read an A/R book, he/she is ready to take a 5 to 10 question multiple-choice computer test to determine how well he/she understood the content of the book. The test can be completed on one of the computers in the classroom. Please ask your child's teacher about their policy for A/R testing. Upon completion of the test, the student is shown how many questions were answered correctly and the number of points earned, as well as his/her accumulated total points. In order to earn points on a test, the child must answer at least 60% of the questions correctly. (Individual teachers may set higher goals.) An accumulated average score of 85-95% shows that the student is reading at a level that is sufficiently challenging to further develop his/her reading skills.

A summary of your child's tests taken and accumulated points will be sent home at the end of the school year. If you would like to see your child's reading record at any time during the year, you may ask your teacher for a report or contact one of us for directions on how to obtain a report. In addition to independent reading by children, parents are encouraged to read books to their children for the purpose of increasing their child's language skills and reinforcing the importance of reading. Children who read or are read to every day perform better, on average, on achievement tests.

When are A/R awards given?

Students are recognized for their A/R achievement by earning awards at the following point levels:

	<u>Grades 1-2</u>	<u>Grades 3-5</u>
* <i>Red Ribbon</i>	25	50
<i>Blue Ribbon</i>	50	100
<i>Bronze Ribbon</i>	75	150
<i>Silver Ribbon & A/R T-shirt</i>	100	200
<i>Gold Ribbon</i>	125	250
<i>AR Achievement Award</i>	150	300
<i>(Individual plaque as well as name on school plaque)</i>		

**Class Party* When every child in the class reaches the Red Ribbon level, the class can choose from either a movie/popcorn party or an ice cream sundae party.

Ribbons are distributed at the beginning of each month. At that time, the student's school photo will also be posted at the appropriate award level on the A/R bulletin boards located in the hallway behind the Media Center. When a student reaches the A/R Achievement Award level, he/she will receive an individual plaque, and his/her name will be engraved on the school plaque. Individual plaques are awarded in a special presentation on *Explorervision*. The school plaque engraving is done at the end of the year, and the updated plaque is on display in the Media Center. (As always, there will be a new and exciting T-shirt design this year for all students who reach the Silver ribbon level!)

How can parents help?

Parent participation, as always, is important to the success of our children. Here are a few ways you can be involved:

Read A/R books to your child at home and to your child's class at school

Verbally encourage your child to read, read, READ!

Set an example—let your child see you read

The A/R bulletin board will be updated monthly by the 15th of the month to reflect the previous month's achievements. For example, September's recognitions will be reflected on the board in October.

Thank you for your support of this rewarding program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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*** Please note: the last day to take an A/R test so that results will be counted toward this school year's A/R reward incentive program will be *Friday, April 29, 2011.***