



Dear Families,

In an effort to support our students with literacy opportunities the Westport Education Foundation has organized a 1,000 books before first grade program and is making it available to students and their families at Macomber Primary School. The program advocates for children birth to six to be able to share 1,000 books with their families before they enter first grade. To make it easy for families to achieve this goal we have collected over 2000 books and have sorted them into 200+ bags of 10 books each. Book bags may be exchanged via backpack.

What is 1,000 books before first grade? After several months of planning WEF is set to launch a multi-year, pre-literacy effort aimed at encouraging families to read at least 1000 books to their preschooler/kindergartener, from birth to age 6 before they enter first grade. This program is modeled on a pilot program in Indiana, and recommended by the Mensa organization.

All families need to do is complete and return the registration form attached and you and your child will receive instructions for participating, a tracking sheet to keep track of your progress, and your first bag of books to get started. I hope you will join us on this exciting and worthwhile journey.

Sincerely,

The Westport Education Foundation

*“Becoming a strong reader begins at birth. The cornerstones of reading success---language, knowledge, and curiosity---should be cultivated from infancy, and in every setting. To promote the language and reading development of our state’s young children, strong partnerships with families are not optional. Families are experts on their children; they are the people most invested in the child’s growth and development...If we reach out to children’s caregivers and give them the information they want and need to promote their children’s reading development, ultimately both the child and society will benefit. If we rely on schools only, our approach is too narrow. If we wait for kindergarten, it is too late.”*

As quoted in the report “Turning the Page: Refocusing Massachusetts for Reading Success” by Nonie K. Lesaux, Ph.D, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

