**HOMEWORK POLICY FOR KINDERGARTEN**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

 Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. I am excited to be the ESOL teacher for Kindergarten here at Westridge Elementary School and hope that we can work as a team as your child learns in English. Sometimes I will work with your student in the classroom and other times we will work in small groups or individually. All of our work will be done at school as there is no homework requirement for Kindergarten students. However, I will ask that each child spend 10 – 15 minutes each night during the week practicing with an easy book which we will select in class to enhance what we are studying. Your child may want to look at the pictures or practice reading the words. You may want to read a story to them in your native language because listening to a story helps a child learn how sentences make up paragraphs and paragraphs make up a story and may help them to develop a love of reading. It may also be fun for your child to try and read street signs such as STOP or YIELD, as well as simple words on store windows.

 Next week I will send home picture cards with the word that matches each picture such as refrigerator, stove, bed, door and other objects in your home. This will give you and your child the opportunity to learn the words together and you can practice if you have time.

 This is all optional; my purpose as the ESOL teacher is to lend support to the classroom teacher in guiding your children as they learn in English.

 I am available to answer any of your questions about school. I will post this letter on my website at <http://www.mrsreinhardt.weebly.com> for your review. Please feel free to email me at xxxxxxx@pwcs.edu or call the school office at (703) 590-3711 if you need this letter interpreted and I will arrange for this. I look forward to meeting each of you at Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 21 at Six o’clock.

Sincerely,

Sue Reinhardt

**JUSTIFICATION**

 I think it is important for parents to know from day one that there is no school requirement for homework for Kindergartners because it can be very stressful, especially for parents who are sending their first child to school. In the case of ESOL parents, some may work either long hours or more than one job and this takes the stress off of them. Sending home an easy book allows the child to look through it on his or her own or with a parent or sibling. Making it all optional offers the opportunity for learning at home without stress, especially if the parent(s) doesn’t know English at all.

 I like the idea of sending home the word/picture cards because it shows the parents that I care about the family as well as the student. I included my website address, email and phone number to make contacting me easy, especially if the parents have little or no English skills.