



## Why Homework Club?

Some have questioned whether the Homework Club and other after-school time takes away from our students' time to "just be kids." They believe that the time is too structured and that there should be more free time. Actually, the 45-minute Homework Club time is the only time in the afternoon which is not unstructured. From 3:30 until 6:00 students have all kinds of options, including at-will Workshops, arts and crafts, games, movies, outdoor activities, and free play on the playground. They can pick and choose from these options and can have as much or as little interaction with other children as they wish.

The 45-minute Homework Club is an important component of our after-school care program. It is now a requirement for all students, whether or not they have actual "homework," although the structure of the program varies somewhat with the ages of the students and the assignments the children have been given. Every child should have a reading book which he/she can use if the regular homework is completed before the time is over. This reading is academically beneficial and will help to satisfy the 15-30 minute nightly reading assignment which every Hilldale student should now be fulfilling.

During this homework time our students can get started or even complete their assignments in a group setting, which helps to make the work more "palatable" when everyone is doing it. They can also seek the help of professionals when they do not understand something in the assignments.

This can be especially important in situations where parents may not have the subject expertise or English language skills to be able to help the child at home.

Equally important is the fact that setting aside a certain time to do one's homework helps to instill the discipline needed to do required things first and to play later. This skill will be invaluable in the children's higher education as well as in the workplace and at home. It will also help to give the family more time at home for "quality time" with parents after dinner, because half or more of the homework should already have been completed. If your child attends Homework Club but still requires more than one hour of additional homework time at home, even in the upper grades, you may wish to ask and/or help your child to work in a more focused and organized manner.

We believe that Homework Club time is just one of the important parts of the Extended Care Program. We make every effort to make the program work to the benefit of all the children and their working parents by providing a balance of study time, free play time, and fun and interesting workshop activities which introduce children to new interests and/or develop their skills. If you would like to see an additional activity during this time, we would invite you to discuss the possibilities with our Extended Care Supervisor, Cindy Turner, and to plan and lead the activity for a group of interested students. Both the children and the school would welcome parent involvement in this way...