

Dear Parents,

As you may already be aware, this year we began using the web-based version of Accelerated Reader and other Renaissance Learning products. Prior to this year, we had approximately 4,900 Accelerated Reader quizzes available for students. Each quiz was specifically ordered by request and reviewed prior to ordering the quiz. By moving to this version and paying an additional annual fee, we now have access to over 100,000 quizzes. Each week new quizzes are loaded which are available to us. We are excited that you will no longer have to request that a quiz be ordered and this opens a world of books for your children to read and take quizzes on.

We are positive about this change and believe that you will be also. However, with this change comes a greater responsibility for being aware of what your child is reading. There are some books that are not appropriate for our children but quizzes are available. We are not suggesting that because these books are on the Accelerated Reader quiz list your child should be reading them. We have blocked quizzes on books that we know are not appropriate but there will be many that we are not aware of. We will not be able to review this many books to determine whether or not the values portrayed in these books reflect the teachings and values of Saint Peter's Catholic School. We have blocked all of the books of Phillip Pullman, including The Golden Compass. We have also blocked books that merely by the title include inappropriate material.

The books that have quizzes available on them can be found at [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com). On our website there is a list of quizzes that should not be taken by students other than Middle School since these books are used for exams.

Star Reading is an additional program that we began using this year. This program allows our students to be tested to determine the appropriate reading range in which they should be reading.

There are more things to come in the future with this new program. We will update you soon.