

## Sail Away through the Depths of Literacy

Research states that “All students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer (Dr. Ruth Peters, 2006). Young readers who don’t continue to read over the summer – especially those who are reluctant or at risk are likely to lose crucial ground.” (Allington, McGillFranzen, 2003).

Congratulations to all students, parents, and teachers for the great strides in student literacy development made throughout the school year! There is no greater time to celebrate these gains than in the summer, so kick up your heels and share the enjoyment that literacy brings. We hope you will find these suggestions helpful.

- **Read aloud to all children, all ages.**

The single most important activity for building knowledge required for eventual success is reading aloud to children (“Becoming a Nation of Readers: Report of the Commission on Reading). *Jim Trelease, author of The Read-Aloud Handbook, states, “Listening comprehension precedes reading comprehension.” He recommends reading aloud to your children “well into middle school, using books two or three levels above their independent reading levels.” This may include age appropriate picture books and chapter books.*

### Picture Book Authors (Grades K-2)

Frank Asch	Leo Lionni	Lois Elhert
Jan Brett	Patricia McKissack	Eric Carle
Eve Bunting	David McPhail	Mark Brown
Donald Carrick	Bill Martin	Steven Kellogg
Eileen Christelow	Patricia Polacco	Audrey Wood
Tomie dePaola	William Steig	Bernard Waber
Kevin Henkes	James Stevenson	Ann Jonas

### Picture Book Authors (Grades 3-4)

Jacqueline Woodson	Lester Laminack	Chris Van Alsburg
Gail Gibbons	Eve Bunting	Jane Yolen
Cynthia Rylant	Patricia Polacco	William Steig
Vera Williams		

- **Provide time for independent reading.**

Among the many benefits of independent reading are improving fluency, increasing vocabulary, and building background knowledge. Research shows that those who read more, “write better, spell better, and have better control of complex grammatical constructions” (Krashen 2004). Choice is the key to independent reading, even if it is not the best literature, they will grow to enjoy reading and expand their selections.

## POPULAR BOOK CHOICES:

### Grades K-2

*Clifford* and others by Norman Bridwell  
*Harold* series by Johnson Crocket  
*Little Critter* books and others by Mercer Mayer

### I Can Read/Easy Reader Authors

Lillian Hoban	Syd Hoff	Millicent Selsam
Leonard Kessler (Sports)	Arnold Lobel	Marjorie W. Sharmat
Emily McCully	James Marshall	Jean VanLeeuwen
Peggy Parish	Cynthia Rylant	Bernard Wiseman

### Brand New Readers published by Candlewick Press (includes tips for parents)

#### *Chapter books for younger readers:*

*Pinkey and Rex* series by James Howe  
*Horrible Harry* series by Suzy Kline  
Sports topics by Matt Christopher  
*Cam Jansen* Series by David Adler  
*Second Grade Friends* and others by Miriam Cohen  
*Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant  
*Frog and Toad* books by Arnold Lobel

### Grade 3:

Beverly Cleary	Patricia MacLachlan	<i>Ramona the Pest</i>
<i>Socks</i>	<i>Sara Plain and Tall</i>	<i>Skylark</i>
<i>Ralph S. Mouse</i>	<i>Caleb's Story</i>	
Roald Dahl	Mary Pope Osborne	<i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i>
<i>The Magic Finger</i>	<i>Magic Treehouse</i>	Andrew Clements
Matt Christopher		

#### *Ready for Chapter Books Series*

Ron Roy  
*A to Z Mysteries*

#### *Sports series*

Johanna Herwitz  
*Rip Roaring Russell*  
*Russell Rides Again*  
*E is for Elisa*

### Grade 4 favorite authors:

Andrew Clements	Jerry Spinelli	Beverly Cleary
Sharon Creech	E.B. White	Patricia Reilly Giff
Kate DiCamillo	Roald Dahl	AVI
Louis Sachar	Judy Blume	Gary Paulsen

- ***Read across a variety of genres.***

If you find your child is reading only fiction, try some poetry and nonfiction as selection choices. Some children's poets are Joanna Cole, Jack Prelutsky, and Shel Silverstein. Some popular nonfiction authors are Stephen Kramer, Gail Gibbons, David Adler, Jean Fritz, and Kathryn Lansky.

Children's magazines provide experiences in literature across genres. Some popular magazines are:

- Click (K-2)
- Spider (Grades 3 and up)
- Appleseeds (Grades 3 and up)
- Sports Illustrated for Kids (Grades 3 and up)
- Kids Discover (Grades 3 and up)
- Cricket (Grades 4 and up)

- ***Include writing during your summer because reading and writing support each other.***

Some suggestions are:

- Write in sand or salt
- Make words with magnetic letters and Wikki Stix (available at craft stores)
- Use sidewalk chalk
- Collect photos, assemble a photo album, and write captions for "My Summer of 2009"
- Make shopping lists/lists for parties/To do lists for Mom and Dad
- Keep a summer journal
- Write postcards to family and friends
- Write thoughts about characters in stories
- Keep a journal about new facts found about favorite animals, sports figures, historical or scientific information
- Write letters or use e-mail to family and friends

- ***Don't forget about playing games or performing readers theaters!***

- Playing games is a great way to practice literacy (Pictionary, Junior Scrabble, Boggle, Trivia games)
- Treasure hunts with written clues
- Put on a neighborhood play- just Google "Readers Theaters"

**CHECK OUT SOME WEBSITES BELOW**

**Reading is fundamental**                      [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)  
**PBS**    [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)  
**International Reading Association**      [www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org)

**American Library Association**              [www.ala.org/greatsites](http://www.ala.org/greatsites)  
[www.surfnetkids.org](http://www.surfnetkids.org)

**Florida Center for Reading Research**  
<http://www.fcrr.org/Curriculum/curriculumForParents.htm>

**Pen pals**                                      <http://www.amazing-kids.org/AKPenPals.html>  
**Readers Theaters**                      [www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm](http://www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm)

**For more websites: See Florence Roche website, Click onto Library in the main section and then Computer Lab.**

- **Have many books around the house. This sends a message that you value reading.**
- **Model reading for your children by being a reader yourself. Find areas of common interest and read together. Newspapers and magazines count!**
- **VISIT the Groton Public Library often for summer programs, books, books on tape, activities and much more.**