

June, 2006

Dear Reading Partners,

Summertime is a great time for families because they get to do all types of interesting and fun things together. While you are relaxing, playing, or vacationing, take some time out to READ! Reading is one activity that the whole family can participate in together. The time spent reading each day will prove to be one of the greatest investments you will make for your child. The National Reading Panel suggests, that spending twenty minutes each day reading increases reading achievement. It is especially important for beginning readers to continue to practice and develop their newly acquired skills on a consistent basis. It is also necessary for all readers to practice what they have learned about reading independently.

As you prepare for your summer reading, it is especially important that you value your child's interests and individual needs when selecting books. Your child's reading can also focus on topics such as, beach trips, family picnics, day camp, outdoor adventures or family vacations. Before you visit the local bookstore or library, sit down with your child and develop a reading list based on their favorite authors, genres (types), and interest.

Even though summer reading is for enjoyment, the following information is provided to identify skills that reinforce reading growth. Predictable text and simple chapter books to read aloud, alone or along with your child develops comprehension. Rhyming text develops word and sound knowledge as well as vocabulary. Non - fiction books can help your child expand their real - world knowledge and vocabulary. Books with tapes or CD's make great road trip companions and develop fluency, vocabulary and listening skills.

There are many popular books that will foster your child's reading ability. I have developed a list of popular children's books for grades K-2. In addition, I have included a list of books that have been awarded literary medals. **Remember summer vacation is a time to encourage your child to read and enjoy books so they can develop a taste for literature that will last a lifetime. Have fun and enjoy your time selecting and reading books together!**

Yvonne W. Bouknight
Reading Specialist
Forest and Linden Avenue Schools