

May 2008

Dear Parents:

Many parents and students have expressed an interest in some resources for summer reading. Summer is a wonderful time to keep up daily reading practice. Younger students can begin to read short beginner books to parents, but they still enjoy and benefit from being read to. Older students can take this time to read longer books. During the school year, there is an emphasis on reading books and taking Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes. However, after reading lots of books over the summer, it may be difficult for students to remember what they have read and take quizzes on these books once school begins again. We strongly encourage you to read over the summer, but please use caution when taking AR quizzes on these books. We want AR to be a positive experience that encourages a life-long love of reading!

Not sure what to have your child read? Here are some resources for book lists:

If you are interested in choosing award-winning books, check out:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/usawards.html> for links to entire award winning lists.

Also, www.trelease-on-reading.com is a website by author Jim Trelease. He has some great suggestions for what you should read aloud to your child and the best way to do it.

Fun websites that encourage reading:

Reading is Fundamental is a wonderful resource for all things reading. They have fun suggestions for kids and parents, as well as several links to book lists. <http://www.rif.org/summer/default.msp>

This website has some great ideas for how to make reading fun. Check out the links on the right side of the screen. <http://www.partnershipforlearning.org/category.asp?CategoryID=33>

Reading programs:

The Smokies have a reading program that gives children rewards for reading. Check it out at:

<http://www.smokiesbaseball.com/kids/default.asp?pagelid=31>

Sylvan Learning has this website, www.bookadventure.org, where children read books and take quizzes to earn prizes.

The Greeneville/Greene County public library also has a summer reading program. Please stop by the library to learn more about what they have to offer. The library also has several computers that are free for public use.

While these resources are wonderful, the most important thing to remember is to keep your child reading! Be part of your child's learning by helping them to choose books by taking them to the library or book store. Talk to your child about what they are reading. Ask questions about what is happening in the book or have them tell you what the book was mostly about. Take books with you on vacation. Find a quiet time or place for your child to read each day. These are all little things you can do and every one of them will make a difference for your child!

Enjoy your summer and keep reading!

Mia Hyde
Reading Specialist
Greeneville City Schools
hydem@gcschools.net