



Library News

Summer, 2015

By Leah Krotz, Librarian

Parents, Grandparents and Anyone Who Loves Kids:

There are lots of beautiful children's books in the library room upstairs. Why not let your kids choose some to check out this summer? Just put the book card with your name and the date in the box in the library room.



Research shows we all tend to learn more slowly in the summer. But some students do worse than simply slow down – they actually go into reverse and lose most of the reading skills they gained during the school year. By the end of 6th grade children who lose reading skills over the summer are two years behind their classmates.

Children who don't read over the summer tend to lose literacy skills while children who do read during the summer actually improve their reading ability. Reading 4 or 5 books over the summer can have a significant impact for middle school readers. Free, voluntary reading is essential to helping students become better readers, writers, and spellers. 8 out of 10 studies indicate students who read recreationally out-performed those who don't.

Equally important is reading to preschool and even older children. "The SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT activity for building knowledge for their eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children," stressed *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, a 1985 study. Why?

- Children who value books are motivated to read on their own.
- The more adults read aloud to children, the larger their vocabularies will grow and the more they will know about the world and their place in it.
- When children see adults excited about reading, they will catch their enthusiasm.
- Reading aloud can introduce books and types of literature—poetry, short stories, biographies— children might not discover on their own.
- Reading aloud lets children use their imaginations to explore people, places, times, and events beyond their own experiences.