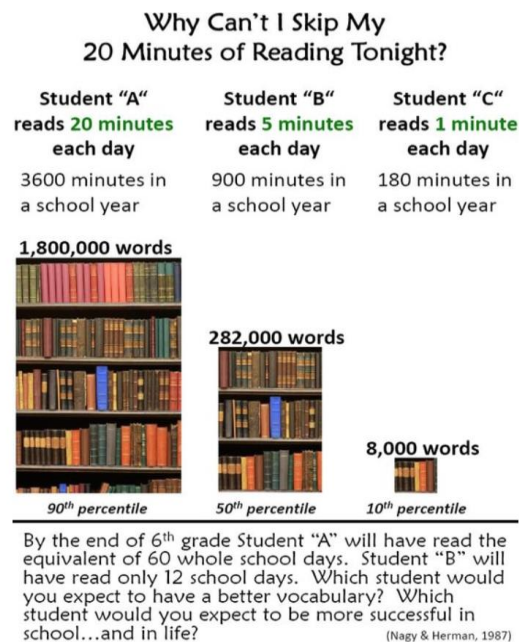


Dear Parents,

Children acquire new skills throughout the school year, but they can lose ground if learning stops during the summer break. Fortunately, learning never has to stop. Research has proven that the best way for students to become better readers is to read!

Children who read throughout the summer gain skills and develop a better understanding of language and the world around them. When children do not read over the summer months, they lose reading performance and fall victim to summer slide. Summer slide is when students regress one or more reading levels.

Reading over the summer significantly makes a difference to your child's learning. Please encourage your child to experience the joy of reading, the doorway to all other learning!



There are many websites and apps, which offer free audio books and literacy related games. The following website has a list of apps for summer reading. <http://classtechtips.com/2015/05/22/18-apps-for-summer-reading/>

This is an excellent website to help you and your child choose the right books. <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/blogs/scholastic-parents-raise-reader/help-kids-to-pick-right-books>

Scholastic Education suggests the following ways to help your child reduce summer slide.

**Make reading important:** *Be a role-model for reading. Let your child see you reading throughout the day and use daily routines as reading opportunities. Cooking, reading TV listings, looking for information on-line, reading directions, or following a map all provide authentic reading experiences.*

**Give your child the power of choice:** *Having reading materials available is key to helping kids love to read, and the reading materials kids choose themselves are best. In fact, 92% of children and teens say they are more motivated to read and are more likely to finish a book they have picked out. Help your child find texts that appeal to his or her interests, yet are age appropriate and 'just right' in difficulty.*

**Set aside time to read every day:** *We know that the more kids read, the better they become at reading and the more they will enjoy reading. During the summer, encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes per day. Make reading 'down-time'—an opportunity for family members to read together, either aloud or quietly to themselves. Keep track of progress by recording book titles, pages read, and minutes spent.*

**Talk it up:** *Talking about books during and after reading helps improve comprehension. Encourage kids to share their ideas and opinions by asking open-ended questions. Talk about what you read to let them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you— soon they might start doing the same.*

**Be part of a reading challenge:** *Most local libraries have summer reading programs that help engage and motivate readers. Kids set a goal, track books they read, and receive incentives for achieving goals. Summer programs also promote reading club opportunities where children can discuss and share books with others, either on-line or in- person. You can even create your own family reading challenge.*

Have a great summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Orishia Asher  
Literacy Specialist  
Palliser Regional Schools