

5/28/09

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Research tells us that children who continue to read over the summer months tend to maintain the gains they accomplished during the school year. Although summer reading may not increase a child's reading level, it will help to keep them from losing any progress and avoid what is called "the summer slide"

The Gloucester Public Schools in collaboration with the Sawyer Free Library is sponsoring our summer reading initiative for all students in Kindergarten through Grade Five. The focus is on encouraging students to explore new reading materials and stretch themselves to experience books they may not have had the opportunity to try during their classroom instructional time. In addition, we highly encourage family literacy time so that a parent can read aloud to their children from some of the newly published books and authors. When families read together, children receive a powerful message that reading is valued in their family and a fun activity to do together!

Instead of a typical required reading list, we have prepared for you a list of authors and series books that are appropriate for all members of your family. It is our hope that you will take the list with you to the library or the bookstore and explore these authors with your children. Many new children's books are published every year and several of those authors are included on this list. The librarians at the Sawyer Free Library are prepared to help you find the authors you are interested in and will give you lots of information and suggestions about the books the authors have written. The lists are organized by grade level interest, but by no means should you or your children limit yourselves to choosing books just from a specific grade level list. These authors and series will be enjoyed by children of all ages, especially if you read some of them aloud to your children a few minutes every day.

Attached please find the Gloucester Public Schools Summer Reading List, as well as a schedule of events at the Sawyer Free Library to keep you and your children reading and learning all summer long!

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer. Happy Reading!

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