

Elementary Summer Curriculum Newsletter 2016

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Dear Halifax, Plympton & Kingston Families -

The students have successfully navigated another school year and it is time to recharge with some summer sunshine. Each summer there are a variety of opportunities for elementary students to engage in learning outside the classroom. Please take a moment to learn about some of these opportunities and a few upcoming changes for the 2016-2017 school year. Thank you for a great year and have a wonderful summer.

How to Prevent Summer Reading Loss

Each school year I diligently sit with my boys and we pride ourselves on the nightly reading routine. We take turns reading and enjoy time with new books or old favorites. We have the routine down and it is a quiet way to end the fall and winter nights. Then comes the spring and everything starts to change with baseball season. The days get longer, life seems more hectic and the reading diminishes to a couple nights a week. The next thing I know, the school year has ended, summer is in full swing and reading before bed time is non-existent. This year, I am encouraging myself and other families to try and keep up the commitment to family reading time. On the calendar, in between camp and swim lessons, I have added trips to the library. Every year we drive to Delaware to visit the grandparents and this year we have picked *James and the Giant Peach* as our book on tape. It's not going to be perfect, but reading matters and preventing the summer slide is important.

Here are a few things to keep in mind this summer to prevent reading loss:

- 1) Students need to have input in what they read, they need to be able to pick books that spark their curiosity to learn more about a topic
- 2) Series books help students build skills through familiar language and literacy elements
- 3) Frame summer reading as enjoyment rather than work
- 4) Read with your child and ask questions about what they have read and how the book made them feel, help your child make connections between the book and their lives
- 5) Check out this article from the [National Summer Learning Association](#)

Summer IXL

This year our district adopted IXL as an online math support for our students in grades 3-6. These students will have continued access throughout the summer. Continued practice using IXL will help your students gain confidence with content and combat summer learning loss.



This year students attempted **1,143,186** problems and practiced 1,289 skills!

Updates for the 2016-2017 school year:

- 1) **Phonics Curriculum for Grades K-2**— Next year we will implement an updated phonics curriculum in all school K-2. Our teachers met in October, to review the current reading instruction, and we are excited to provide this new support for all students K-2.
- 2) **Science**— In January the state adopted new science standards and we will begin to implement these changes with a new science curriculum resources in grades K-5. Sixth grade will be piloting new materials and looking to adopt new curriculum materials in the Spring of 2017.
- 3) **MCAS 2.0**—The state continues to develop new state testing and at this time we know that they are looking to decrease the number of test sessions, encouraging computer-based testing, and that all district schools will be completing MCAS 2.0 in May-April of 2017.

Ways to Earn by Reading

Getting rewarded for hard work is a great lesson for students. This summer area companies are offering incentives for reading.

Rockland Trust

Reading Makes Cent\$

Students can earn up to \$25.00 by reading and completing journal entries.



The program runs from June 20, 2016 to August

31, 2016. (Grades 1—6)

www.rocklandtrust.com

TD Bank

Summer Reading Program

Students can earn up to \$10.00 by completing a reading form.

The program runs from

June 1, 2016

to August 31,

2016.

(Grades K-5)

www.tdbank.com



Barnes & Nobles

Summer Reading Triathlon

Students can earn a free book by completing a summer reading journal. The program runs until September 6, 2016.

(Grades 1—6)



www.barnesandnoble.com

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