

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As the end of the school year is upon us, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments of your child. With each new day came new opportunities for learning – socially, emotionally, and academically. Our thoughts now turn to ways to continue that growth through the summer months.

Research shows that "unless students read regularly during school breaks, they can fall behind three months in their reading achievement" (*Scholastic Instructor*, May/June, 2005). Reading is a skill that requires repeated practice, just like learning to play an instrument or a sport. The more you practice, the better you get. Students who continue to read throughout the summer months maintain and, in many cases, increase their reading ability.

There are also studies that correlate freedom of reading choice to developing an enduring love of reading. Please encourage your child to set reading goals this summer. They should read something every day of the summer, and it should be his/her choice. Some helpful websites for book choices include the following:

- <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>
- NoveList- this helpful website can be accessed via your BCCLS library card website
- <http://www.abookandahug.com/>
- <http://www.guysread.com/>
- <http://www.readkiddoread.com/home>
- <http://www.booksource.com/>
- <http://www.closterschools.org/domain/186> (Mrs. Kahn's website)

Best wishes for a relaxing summer filled with new reading opportunities! We look forward to learning about what the middle schoolers read this summer, once they arrive at Tenakill in September.

Sincerely yours,

Grades 5 and 6 Language Arts Teachers