

June 1, 2018

Dear Parents of Incoming Fourth Graders:

It's hard to believe that the school year is about to end, and summer vacations will soon begin. Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improve their language skills. If your child does not read regularly this summer, s/he may be in danger of the "summer slide"—a decline in their reading ability.

Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system.

The best ways to keep your child from becoming a "rusty reader" over the summer are:

1. Encourage your children to read books they enjoy for at least 30 minutes per day. Your child will likely be more engrossed in material they choose themselves than material that is forced on them.
2. Provide incentives for reluctant readers. For example, if your child enjoys basketball, agree to take them to the local court if they do their "daily reading."
3. Make reading a social act. Establish a time during the day when all members of the family gather and read on their own, or take turns reading the same book aloud.
4. Connect your reading to family outings. If you take your kids to an aquarium, consider reading a book about fish or the ocean with them later that day. The outing can help place the reading into a broader context.

Since we will be studying volcanoes in science in Grade 4, I have chosen the book entitled *The Magic School Bus Science Chapter Book #15: Voyage to the Volcano*. In addition, **I am requiring that students complete the accompanying learning packet. This packet MUST be turned in on the first day of school and will be counted as the first Language Arts grade.** Please assist your child as s/he completes the packet and offer guidance if necessary.

I look forward to working with your child in the fall.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Robert W Fisher, Ed.D., CCC-SLP