



**To: All Families Who Love To Read ♥**

Summer vacation is fast approaching and the need to read during these months is especially important. Research has shown that children who do not read during the summer months can lose approximately 3-4 months of reading gains made during the previous school year (U.S. Dept. of Ed., 1996). In light of this research and in recognition of the importance of independent reading, we are continuing our annual voluntary Summer Reading Program.

Attached are the calendars for July and August so that your child can keep track of the books read. Each day that your child reads, he/she should write the amount of time spent reading. **Children must read 40 out of the 62 days between July 1 and August 31 to complete the requirements.** Parent and child must sign off on the July calendar **and** the August calendar. Completed calendars must be returned to your child's teacher **no later than Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

We look forward to celebrating with all of the children who fulfill the requirements. Children will receive a certificate of participation, a special reward, and they will have their names listed on the bulletin board by the library. More importantly, your child will enjoy all the fun, mystery, and excitement that come with reading a good book.

If you visit the Reading Section on our school website, you will see many valuable resources, such as: How to Prevent Summer Slide and links to some additional summer reading programs. Several of these offer free books and prizes!

We hope that you enjoy a healthy, happy summer of reading with your child.

Sincerely yours,

Kellyann Gayer      Michelle Keane      Keely Schuppert  
Reading Specialist    Reading Specialist    Librarian

P.S. For our fifth graders going on to middle school: Independent reading of a wide variety of books is one of the *best* ways to prepare for middle school. Keep up the St. James reading tradition!

