

Dear First Grade Parents,

Summer is a great time for picnics, swimming, and **SUMMER READING!** Parents often ask how they can help their children become life-long readers. The answer is simple. Read to them every day.

Read-Aloud advocate Jim Trelease recommends reading aloud with your child 20 minutes a day. The benefits derived from this seem endless-- increased comprehension, vocabulary and other wonderful academic benefits as well as time spent together in a pleasurable, relaxing way. He encourages parents to continue reading to their child even after the child learns to read.

Be a treasure hunter for books that you and your child will love. We encourage you to use the **PUBLIC LIBRARY** as one of your main resources for summer reading. Become a weekly library user, and join your library's summer reading program if at all possible.

Please have your child record two of his or her favorite summer reading books in the "Story Circles." Have your child carefully draw a picture inside the circle, and then ask him or her to copy the title and author on the lines provided underneath. You may want to keep a running list for him or her so that he or she can make the four favorite selections to draw at the end of the summer, or your child may want to do this as he or she encounters most-loved stories. **At the beginning of the school year in first grade, please send these completed Story Circles to school with your child.** Sharing our mutual love of books will be a meaningful way to start the year.

Have a happy summer and don't forget to relax and **READ-READ-READ!!!!**

Sincerely,

Your First Grade Teachers

Story Circle


