

What can you do to stop the SUMMER SLIDE?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to thank you once again for your continuous effort and commitment in your child's education. Your child has worked hard all school year and has made tremendous gains. As your child's teacher I couldn't be more excited for them to take what we've learned this year and make even more gains next year. The "summer slide" is a term educators use to reference the regression a student can have over summer break. The "summer slide" has been extensively researched and has shown some startling facts. On average a child facing the "summer slide" can lose up to two months of academic learning in both reading and math. Furthermore, students that have faced the "summer slide" will need approximately four to six weeks of reteaching next year. It is my hope that your child does not face the "summer slide" and continues to grow and learn more over the summer. Below are a few simple ideas on how to best help your child stay engaged with learning over the summer.

- Encourage your child to read 20 minutes per day. If your child is unable to read independently, you can read aloud to them. Have your child retell the story and state the characters in the book. You can also ask your child to give their opinion of the book.
- Have your child assist you in doing word hunts. You can do word hunts around the house, in the car, or even in the store. You can tell your child a word you see and have them search their surroundings until they identify it. You can also point to words around you and have your child read the word.
- Have your child assist you in doing math challenges. For example, when you open the pantry, ask your child questions like, "Do you see more canned food or boxed food?" You can take it a step further by allowing them to retrieve the food and count it. Math challenges can be number identification, shapes, addition, subtraction or even patterns.
- Encourage your child to practice their handwriting and writing skills daily. You can have them assist you in grocery list writing or reminder writing. You can even have them write letters or postcards to friends and family.

