For rising kindergarteners

Dear Parents,

As the long days of summer stretch before us, we encourage our students to read and explore books daily. Children love to hear adults read to them. It creates a special time between adults and children.

Our list can be used as a starting point with your soon-to-be-kindergartener and includes award-winning books and books recognized by teachers as meaningful reading for students of kindergarten age. Please read some of these great books to your children and check out the suggested parent reading list. We also encourage reading fairy tales, folk tales, and nursery rhymes. They are a rich and beneficial part of our literary heritage, and they enhance children’s phonological awareness.

BOOK LIST

Here is a book we highly recommend for parents to read.

- *The Power of Play: Learning What Comes Naturally* by David Elkind

Here are some of our favorites for reading aloud to your children.

- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *Little Oink and Little Pea* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *Why Do You Cry?* by Kate Klise
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- *Lyle and the Birthday Party* by Bernard Waber
2020-21 Lower School Summer Reading

For rising 1st graders

Dear Parents,

The first selection, Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever by children’s author Mem Fox, is for parents to read. We know that many of you already read aloud regularly; Reading Magic is full of suggestions to enrich your experiences. The book is inexpensive, short, and easy to read, and we think (actually, we know) that you’ll enjoy it. After finishing Reading Magic, we’re sure you’ll understand why reading to your child over the summer is so important.

BOOK LIST

Here is a book we highly recommend for parents to read.

- Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever by Mem Fox

Fox extols the benefits of reading to preschoolers — even newborns — and gives suggestions for helping children learn to read by themselves.

With your child, choose and read many books this summer. Some suggestions are...

- Step-One reading books
- the Olivia series by Ian Falconer
- poems by Shel Silverstein
- books by Joy Cowley
- animal stories
- Purplicious books by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann
- Noodles series by Scholastic
- Biscuit series by I Can Read
Dear Parents,

Learning and reading researchers continually trumpet the fact that reading is the single most effective activity to prevent summer learning loss (a.k.a. the Summer Slump). Studies show that students who read as few as six books during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills achieved during the preceding school year, while students who don’t read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

This summer your child will need to read one chapter book and one book from the list below. They do not need to write about either of the books they read this summer; we will do that together when school starts. One book may be anything he or she chooses in any genre; however, the second book must be one of the books listed below.

- The Patchwork Quilt - Flournoy
- The Other Side - Woodson
- Salt in His Shoes - Jordan
- I am Rosa Parks - Meltzer
- Amazing Grace - Hoffman
- Freedom Summer - Wiles
- Henry’s Freedom Box - Levine

This chart offers some ideas you can use to extend your activities and enrich your child's experience with their summer reading choices. (This is not mandatory.)

| Did your book take place in another state or country? Look up that place and find all about the weather, population, land, and famous historic sites. If it happened in another time, look up how they dressed, what transportation looked like, and what they did for fun. Make a lapbook (file folder) with pictures and facts about this. | Start a virtual book club with your friends. Get together weekly and read pages of your book aloud together and discuss what is happening. Perhaps you could each be a character in the book! | Make a puppet show or short video about a scene from your book. Perhaps your character has a hobby that you could try and you could record yourself doing the same activity or make something similar to what they made. |
| Did your character go on an adventure? Did they travel to different places? Use your mapmaking skills and recreate a map of the places they visited. | Do you love to draw? Illustrate a scene or a chapter from your story. Design a new book cover for your chosen book. You could even recreate the cover in 3D. | Are you a tech wizard? Would you like to try your hand at technology? Recreate your story or a scene from your book into a comic strip, animation, or minecraft scene. |
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This summer your child will need to read **two chapter books**. They do not need to write about either of the books they read this summer; we will do that together when school starts. One book may be anything he or she chooses in any genre; however, the second book must be one of the books listed below.

**BOOK LIST**

Choose one of the following (books are listed in order of easy to difficult)

- *Dyamonde Daniel: Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel* by Nikki Grimes
- *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies
- *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl

The nine block chart below will offer some ideas for other things you can do to keep your brain sharp and fill your free time this summer.

| Did you read a book with an exciting setting? Did the characters go someplace interesting? You can create a travel brochure for a place that is in a book you read. Include pictures and information that will encourage people to visit there. |
| Do you like socializing? Do you enjoy hanging out with your friends either at a safe distance or online? Why not create a book club? You and a friend (or a few friends) can choose a book to read together and meet to talk about it. Who knows, maybe your parents could have their own book club too! |
| There are a lot of new and exciting books out there to choose from, but how about reading a classic book? There are lots of really good books that get overlooked because they aren’t brand new. Find a book older than you are and give it a chance. You won’t regret it. |
### 2020-21 Lower School Summer Reading

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td><strong>You can use your time this summer to learn something new.</strong> Read about a topic that interests you: history, animals, food, motorcycles, dinosaurs, the human body, national parks, famous people...anything! When you’re finished you could make an informative video or slideshow to teach other people what you learned and share it with us when school starts again.</td>
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<td><strong>Do you like to draw? You can use your talent to do something great for your neighborhood.</strong> Rewrite the main parts of a story on the sidewalk and illustrate them. You can retell a story you’ve read or make up your own. People walking by can read your story. You may just end up with the most popular house on the block!</td>
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<td><strong>Have you ever binge watched a tv series? Maybe some of you have done that while on quarantine. Why not binge read a book series? Start a new series and see how far you can get through it by the time we go back to school.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Feeling artsy? Why not create a piece of art that connects to a book you read?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Are you a writer? You could write a newspaper article that could have been written about an event in a book you read. You could write letters between two characters or write a book review that might be found in a magazine for kids. Of course, you can always write a good old fashioned book report.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Are you tech savvy? You could do something cool and digital that connects to a book you’ve read.</strong></td>
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This summer your child will need to read two books. They do not need to write about either of the books they read this summer; we will do that together when school starts. One book may be anything s/he chooses, but the other must be a realistic fiction book about a child's summer adventure. Some suggestions are below.

BOOK LIST

- Seaglass Summer by Anjali Banerjee
- The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
- Fudge-a-Mania by Judy Blume
- Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great by Judy Blume
- Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
- Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen
- The Summer of the Gypsy Moths by Sarah Pennypacker
- Aurora County All Stars by Deborah Wiles
- Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer by Megan McDonald
- Summer Reading is Killing Me! by Jon Scieszka
- How Tia Lola Saved the Summer by Julia Alvarez

Here are some ideas for other things you can do to keep your brain sharp and fill your free time this summer.

- Did you read a book with an exciting setting? Did the characters go someplace
- Do you like socializing? Do you enjoy hanging out with your friends either at a safe distance or online? Why not create a book
- There are a lot of new and exciting books out there to choose from, but how about reading a classic book? There are lots of
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<td><strong>club?</strong> You and a friend (or a few friends) can choose a book to read together and meet to talk about it. Who knows, maybe your parents could have their own book club too!</td>
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