



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- June 9, 2017

Dear Parents,

Next Friday (June 16th at 9:30) I will present a workshop for parents on ways to encourage and support reading over the summer. **Here are just a few of the ideas we will discuss:**

- ✦ The best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer. Just 15 minutes a day can make a huge difference for a young reader.
- ✦ Children don't just need books...*they need the right books*— books that match their skill levels and their interests. High-success reading is essential. If a child struggles to read a book, it won't be fun. If reading isn't fun, a child will do everything s/he can to avoid it! Find books that are "comfortable" for your child, where s/he has to stop to decode only a few words in the whole book. Let him/her choose books and magazines that interest him/her. Joke and riddle books are great options for reluctant readers. They provide immediate gratification—*they make people laugh!* Children are more likely to become lifelong readers when reading is pleasurable. Find what your child likes and build from there.
- ✦ Visit the public library – often. Your library can often serve as the best resource to keep your child reading over the summer. One of the Cold Spring Harbor Librarians will visit our classes on Thursday to tell the students about the Library's Summer Reading Club. Check your child's HW folder for the flyer describing the program and inviting them to the Kick-Off event.
- ✦ Explore online reading sites/apps for young readers. For example, www.storylineonline.net is a fabulous (and free!) site featuring actors who read children's picture books aloud. (It is sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild.) Your child can also continue to use Raz-Kids at home. Try other sites, such as Starfall.com or Reading Rainbow (www.readingrainbow.com) which also has iPad apps for a small fee.
- ✦ Most importantly, read aloud to your child regularly. Reading aloud to your child builds comprehension, vocabulary, and a love of reading. It is the single most effective way to promote your child's success in school. At the workshop, I will present specific strategies that will help you strengthen your child's reading ability by reading aloud in an intentional way.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Herschlein



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