

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As summer approaches, we are excited to share our **Summer Reading Program** for rising fifth grade students! This program is designed to keep students engaged in reading, help them maintain their literacy skills, and foster a lifelong love of books during the summer months.

Why Summer Reading?

Studies show that reading just 20 minutes a day can significantly boost vocabulary, comprehension, and overall academic performance. Our goal is to encourage students to read for enjoyment and return to school ready to learn.

Program Details:

- **Reading Goal:** Students are **required to read one book from the list below as well as one book of your choice** over the summer.
- **Book Selection:** We've included a reading list based on your child's Fountas and Pinnell reading level, as stated on their final report card. We hope these will provide a variety of reading levels and interests.
 - Level L, M, N, O and P
 - *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
 - *The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me* by Roald Dahl
 - Level Q, R, and S
 - *Spy X: The Cody* by Peter Lerangis
 - *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
 - Level T through Z
 - *The Pederwicks: A Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall
 - *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- **Required Writing Activity:** As you read the book you've selected from the required list, please pick eight of the following questions to answer on a piece of paper (handwritten or typed). These will be turned into your 5th grade teacher during the first week of school. Be prepared to discuss the book and your notes as a class, as well!
 - What is the title, author, and genre of the book?
 - Who are the important/main characters in the book?
 - Summarize the book in 3-5 sentences.
 - What is the conflict in the book? What is the resolution?
 - Were you surprised by the resolution of the story? Why or why not?
 - What message was the author trying to convey?
 - What lessons did you or the characters learn?
 - Did any characters change during the story? How so? What happened that made them change?
 - Use evidence from the text to describe three personality traits of the main character.

- Think of another book that reminds you of this one. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Did the protagonist make any decisions you did not agree with? Explain.
- Describe some of the emotions the antagonist felt.
- Were there any parts you did not understand? If so, what?
- List 5 new vocabulary words (and their definitions) that you learn from the story.
- Did you enjoy reading this story? Why or why not?

How You Can Help:

- Set aside time each day for reading.
- Talk to your child about the books they're reading.
- Visit your local library together ([Prince William Library Card Information](#)) or visit [McKay's Used Books](#)
- Be a reading role model by reading your own book alongside them or read with them.

We believe that reading during the summer will help your child start the next school year strong and confident. Thank you for your support in making reading a part of your summer routine.

Happy reading!