

One World, Many Stories

June 20, 2011

Dear Parents,

Kent Center School is participating in **CONNECTICUT READS 2011 – the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge**. This annual program encourages students to keep a list of the books they read during summer vacation. This includes audio books, read-alouds, and independently read books.

As a participating school, we are asking KCS students **entering kindergarten through fifth grade** to record the titles of the books they read this summer. We are asking KCS students **entering sixth through eighth grade** to record the number of pages they read along with the titles of their books. All students may record their information on the enclosed SUMMER READING JOURNAL or on a regular sheet of paper.

We will collect summer reading journals when students return to school in August. Once we receive all lists, we will tally our results and report our success to Governor Malloy.

All Kent Center School students who turn in summer reading lists will receive a discount coupon to the House of Books for 20% off all of their book purchases from the first day of school (August 29, 2011) through Columbus Day Weekend (October 10, 2011). This incentive is courtesy of the generosity of Jim and Gini Blacketter at the House of Books bookstore.

Enclosed you will also find a suggested reading list. Region 1 school librarians created the lists, also available on the KCS website (www.kentcenterschool.org), to help families guide their summer reading choices. You should consider the reading level of your child when selecting from the list. Some choices may be more appropriate than others.

Happy Reading,
Betsy Morrow
School Librarian

Enclosures: summer reading journal, suggested reading list



The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

A Message to Parents and Students

Why does the State of Connecticut sponsor the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge? Because reading is the most important skill there is. Research shows that reading is crucial to a child's brain development and intellectual stimulation. And that's just the beginning:



Reading is a gateway skill. It opens the door to all other learning.



Reading is the processing of information. It requires the student to develop a capacity for conceptual thinking — an ability to think about the nature and significance of things.



Reading builds language skills. By becoming more familiar with language through reading, students build a rich vocabulary and an ability to express themselves clearly and creatively.



Reading builds better thinking strategies. Deciphering words, sentences, themes and meaning; concentrating, conceptualizing and visualizing — all these elements of reading are strategies to expand a student's ability to think.



Reading is active and disciplined. Students learn to choose what they read and when they read, and they learn to discipline themselves to concentrate on the written word.

What YOU Can Do to Encourage Reading



Use the library.

Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Help children learn how to use the library's resources: card catalogs, computer systems, best-seller sections, etc. Visit regularly — as often as you go to the grocery store.



Read every day.

Make it a habit to set aside time each day for everyone to read — books, magazines, newspapers, letters. You can even begin by reading television listings, then discussing what you will watch together and why.



Talk about what you're reading.

Children need to see adults reading frequently. They also need to know the benefits of reading. Talk to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, even young neighbors about what you're reading. Tell them how much you have enjoyed it, what you have learned, and how you have been inspired.



Ask about summer reading materials.

Schools and libraries often provide summer reading lists that highlight excellent books which are readily available, popular and consistent with grade-level reading skills. Call your school or library for information.



Make reading materials part of your home.

Buy books at bookstores and tag sales. Borrow books from the library and from friends. Subscribe to newspapers and magazines. *Then read, read, read!*

To learn more about the Summer Reading Challenge, ask your teacher, principal, or school or public librarian, or contact the Connecticut State Department of Education: 860-713-6762 or www.ct.gov/sde.