



Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Summer Break is quickly approaching and I'm reaching out with some information to help your child continue to make progress in his or her reading during the summer.

Our students have made such gains this year. Unfortunately, research continues to prove when kids don't read over the summer, they are likely to fall behind when they head back to school. These learning losses are often called the "Summer Slide" and, in order to keep our students' skills sharp, we encourage ALL children to read all summer long. Each 1st-6th grade student attending Lindbergh School in September will be asked to complete a Summer Reading Log and Summer Reading Project. The reading log and project should be completed and handed in by September 13, 2025, to his/her new teacher at Lindbergh School. The assignments and many other resources such as reading tips, book lists, and optional activities can be found on our school web site www.palpksschools.org. Summer assignments will be distributed to each student before the last day of school.

Summer Reading Logs:

- [24-25 Summer Reading Log for Grade 1](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Log for Grades 2 & 3](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Log for Grades 4 & 5](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Log for Grade 6](#)

Summer Reading Projects:

- [24-25 Summer Reading Project for Grades 2 & 3](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Project for Grades 4 & 5](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Project for Grade 6](#)

Optional Summer Enrichment Activities:

- [24-25 Summer Writing: Postcard \(Grades 1-6\)](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Challenge \(Grades 1-2\)](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Challenge \(Grades 3-5\)](#)
- [24-25 Summer Reading Journal \(Grades 1-6\)](#)

Remember, the more your child reads, the better reader he or she will become!
Enjoy the summer and Happy Reading!



Sincerely,
Mrs. Michele Martini
Literacy Coach

How to Avoid the "Summer Slide"

Experts agree that children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward. According to the authors of a report from the National Summer Learning Association: "A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately two months or roughly 22 percent of the school year ...It's common for teachers to spend at least a month re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer. That month of re-teaching eliminates a month that could have been spent on teaching new information and skills."

1. Six books to summer success: Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right - not too hard and not too easy. Below is the Five Finger Rule, which will help your child select a book that is not too easy and not too difficult.

Five Finger Rule:

1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of or do not know.
4. If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.
5. If there are less than 5 words you did not know, ask yourself if you can retell what you just read in your own words. If the answer is yes, that book is "just right".

2. Visit the local library: Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. If you have a reluctant reader, any book is a good book! Let them explore the different genres and choose a book they are interested in. Our local library, Palisades Park Public Library, is offering a variety of summer reading programs. This year the library will be using Beanstack to track reading progress. You can sign up at palisadespark.beanstack.com! You can also register for their many upcoming programs on their [Palisades Park Library Calendar](#)! Registration opens one week prior to the program. Keep checking <https://www.palparklibrary.org/summer> for more programs and updates!

3. Keep Reading Aloud: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so they will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This increases student knowledge and expand their experience with text, so that students will do better when they read on their own.

4. Set a good example: When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book, magazine, or newspaper, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.

5. MOST IMPORTANTLY: Find time to read EVERY DAY. Students don't have to sit down for 30 minutes at a time... read anytime (in the car, in a waiting room for appointments, when it's too hot to go outside, beside the pool... ANYTIME is a good time to read!)

*ideas adapted and adopted from Pinterest, Scholastic, and Adventures in Literacy Land blog



Summer is a great time for your child to practice what he/she has learned throughout the school year. There is no better activity for your child than to engage in reading for summer enjoyment. Not only will your child discover the joy of being lost in a good book, he/she will practice the many skills and strategies he/she has learned all year.

In order to encourage students to continue reading over the summer we are asking students to keep a reading log (See below). If a student logs 600 or more minutes of reading over the course of the summer and returns the log to their school's literacy coach, they will receive a small prize for their hard work.

By reading with your child as often as you can and asking the provided questions, you will promote and practice fluency and comprehension skills to support this journey!

For homework each night, please do the following:

- ★ Have your child read **10-20 minutes each day**,
 - Please do not allow your child to struggle through the words. Give him/her a chance to decode it, but if they continue to struggle, tell them the word so they can continue reading.
- ★ Ask your child 3-4 comprehension questions from the list provided below
- ★ Don't forget to update your reading log!

Important Information

- ★ If you find that a book is too difficult for your child, please return it. The goal is for your child to feel encouraged and not discouraged

Sample Reading Questions

- ★ What is the title of the story? Can you think of another title?
- ★ What is the story about?
- ★ What is the setting of the story? (Where does the story take place?)
- ★ Is there a problem in the story? If so, what is the problem?
- ★ What is the solution to the problem in the story? Can you think of another solution?
- ★ How do you think your solution will change the ending?
- ★ What happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?
- ★ Did you like the story? Why or why not?
- ★ Can you think of a different ending for the story?
- ★ Would you recommend this story to a friend? Why or why not?



Summer reading is meant to be enjoyable and we do not want students to have to struggle; we want reading to be fun and relaxing. The following summer reading lists are meant to be a guide for students and parents; students can select books from other levels or even books that do not appear on the list. The important thing is that students read, read, read!

For Younger Kids Who Just Graduated From "Captain Underpants":

- "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown
- "Stella Diaz Has Something to Say" by Angela Dominguez

For Kids Interested in Fairy Tales:

- Anything by Gail Carson Levine
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
- "The Girl Who Drank the Moon" by Kelly Barnhill
- "Rooftoppers" by Katherine Rundell
- "Red Queen" by Victoria Aveyard
- For kids who will miss school over the summer:
- "Because of Mr. Terupt" by Rob Buyea
- "Ungifted" by Gordon Korman
- "Lupe Wong Won't Dance" by Donna Barba Higuera

For Kids Interested in Spooky/Sci Fi Books:

- "Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- "Hoodoo" by Ronald L. Smith
- "When You Reach Me" by Rebecca Stead
- "Orleans" by Sherri L. Smith
- "A Wish in the Dark" by Christina Soontornvat

For Kids Interested in Mythology:

- "The Storm Runner" by J.C. Cervantes
- "Peasprout Chen: Future Legend of Skate and Sword" by Henry Lien
- "The Hound of Rowan" by Henry Neff
- "The Jumbies" by Tracey Baptiste
- Just plain good writing:
- "The Crossover" by Kwame Alexander
- "Dead End in Norvelt" by Jack Gantos

- “Skelig” by David Almond
- “Loving vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case” by Patricia Hruby Powell
- “Orbiting Jupiter” by Gary D. Schmidt
- “The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street” by Karina Yan Glaser

More Recent Novels:

- [Allies by Alan Gratz](#)
- [Blended by Sharon M. Draper](#)
- [Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson](#)
- [Words on Fire by Jennifer A. Nielsen](#)
- [Clean Getaway by Nic Stone](#)
 - This is Nic Stone’s first middle grades book. The other novels *Jackpot*, *Dear Martin*, and *Odd One Out* are geared towards a more “young adult” audience
- [All-American Muslim Girl by Nadine Jolie Courtney](#)
- [Count Me In by Varsha Bajaj](#)
- [Look Both Ways](#) by Jason Reynolds
- [Front Desk and Three Keys](#) by Kelly Yang
- [Ground Zero](#) by Alan Gratz
- [Amal Unbound](#) by Aisha Saeed
- [Three Cups of Tea](#) by David Oliver Relin and Greg Mortenson
- [George](#) by Alex Gino
- [You Don’t Know Everything, Jilly P!](#) by Alex Gino
- [City of the Plague God by Sarwat Chadda](#)
- [Merci Suarez Changes Gears](#) by Meg Medina
- [A Good Kind of Trouble](#) by Lisa Moore Ramee
- [American Panda](#) by Gloria Chao
- [One Half From The East](#) by Nadia Hashimi
- [Brown Girl Dreaming](#) by Jacqueline Woodson
- Letters from Cuba by Ruth Behar
- [A Place To Belong](#) by Cynthia Kadohata
- [Ugly](#) by Robert Hogs (nonfiction memoir)
- Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park

Graphic Novels:

- [New Kid by Michael Berry](#) (Graphic Novel)
- [El Deafo](#) by CeCe Bell
- [Pashmina](#) by Nidhi Chanani

Graphic Novels Favorites:

- Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey
- Check out the Baby-Sitters Club graphic novel series
- If your child likes gaming, look for the Minecraft series by Sfē R. Monster
- Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson books are also being released as graphic novels
- Anything by Raina Telgemeier, but especially “Sisters,” “Guts,” and “Smile”

New Graphic Novels:

- “New Kid” by Jerry Craft
- “Amulet” by Kazu Kibuishi

Books for the eager reader/young adult:

- [I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives](#) (nonfiction)
- [The Uglies Series](#)

- [Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) by Jason Reynolds (nonfiction)
- [It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime](#) by Trevor Noah
 - There are two versions of this text. The linked version is adapted for young readers. The "Adult" version is *Trevor Noah: Born a Crime*
- [I Have Lost My Way](#) by Gayle Forman
- [Counting by 7's](#)- Holly Goldman Sloan
- [Eleanor and Park](#)- Rainbow Roswell
- [Children of Blood and Bone](#)- Tomi Adeyemi

Before you see the movie:

- [The Sun is Also a Star](#) by Nicola Yoon
- [To All the Boys I've Loved Before](#) & [PS I Still Love You](#) (Sequel) by Jenny Han
- [The Fault in Our Stars](#) by John Green
- [Paper Towns](#) by John Green
- [Simon vs. The Homosapien Agenda](#) by Becky Albertalli - on Disney+ as the movie *Love, Simon*
- [The Hate U Give](#) by Angie Thomas
- [Percy Jackson and the Olympians](#) by Rick Riordan
- [Little Women](#) by Louisa May Alcott
- [Harry Potter Series](#) by J.K. Rowling
- [The Hunger Games](#) by Suzanne Collins
- [Twilight Series](#) by Stefanie Meyer
- [I Know What You Did Last Summer](#) by Lois Duncan
- [Wonder](#) by R. J. Palacio

Help! My child doesn't want to pick up a book this summer:

- [Ungifted](#), by Gordon Korman and the sequel, [Supergifted](#)
- ["The Crossover"](#) by Kwame Alexander
- [Ghost](#) Series by Jason Reynolds
- All Novels by [Carl Deuker](#)
- [Blackwater](#) by Eve Bunting
- [The Face on the Milk Carton](#) by Caroline Cooney
- [Girl Stolen](#) by April Henry
- [Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey](#) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- [The One and Only Ivan](#) by Katherine Applegate
- The Land of Stories series by Chris Colfer

Here are some links to online resources and incentives to help your child with his/her reading progress over the summer:

*[Raz-kids](#) - Students can continue to read and listen to books at their level all summer long.

*[Scholastic Summer Challenge - Home Base](#) - Home Base is a fun, safe, and completely free online destination where kids can create their own avatar, interact with their favorite Scholastic characters and authors, play games, and read books.

*[Barnes and Noble](#) - Kids can earn a free book when they read eight books from the Barnes and Noble list. Lists are available in both English and Spanish.

*[Read. Write. Think](#) - Tips to help your child tackle his or her summer reading list and have fun doing it.

*[Reading Rockets](#)- Find more resources and ideas in the Summer Reading calendar section.

*[The Ultimate Middle School Summer Reading List](#)- This middle school summer reading list will help your child prepare for the upcoming school year!

Additionally, the Palisades Park Town Library is hosting an optional summer reading program as well as lots of free activities and classes. If you can, try to visit! The staff at the library would love to see you and help you and your family check out some new books!

Reading is an adventure that opens doors to new worlds and ideas. Together, we can ensure that your child's summer is filled with exciting literary journeys. Enjoy the Summer and Happy Reading!

<https://www.palparklibrary.org/summer/>

June 25 (Tu) : 3D Paper Balloons
2:30: Group 1 | 3:30: Group 2
Make a paper craft to decorate the library or keep! Registration required.

Science Heroes
June 27 (Th) @ 3:00 PM
An interactive show that involves science experiments! Volunteers will be called on to join the fun. For all ages, but most fun for those 5+! No registration required.

July 2 (Tu): Geodes
2:30: Group 1 | 3:30: Group 2
Learn about rocks & crack open a geode. For ages 5+. Registration required.

July 6 (Sat): Coding Club
2:30 – 3:30
Learn the basics of coding in this self-paced club where we'll use Fiero Code with leader Gabe. Open to ages 8 and up. Limited registration!

July 9 (Tu): Art Kids Academy
3:00 – 4:00
X marks the spot! We're making maps. For ages 5+. Registration required.

July 11 (Th): Light-up Name Tags
2:30: Group 1 | 3:30: Group 2
Learn about circuits & make an LED tag. For ages 5+. Registration required.

July 13 (Sat) @ 11:00 AM
Creative Movement: Story Adventure!
Explore stories using movement & music with Mandi from Dabbling Brook! For ages 3–5. Registration required.

July 13 (Sat): Krafty Kids
2:30 – 3:30
Make a craft with Miss Cara that will be displayed in the library! For ages 5 & up. Registration required.

July 16 (Tu): Open Crafts & Games
3:30 – 4:30
Free time to make crafts & play games. Supplies provided. No registration!

July 18 (Th): Dinosaur Safari
12:30–2:00: Group 1 | 2:30–4:00: Group 2
Explore a Minecraft world & design a dinosaur! iPads will be provided. For ages 8+. Registration required.

July 20 (Sat): Cooking Class
11:00 – 12:00
Let's make something to eat with Miss Christine – no oven or stove needed! For ages 5 & up. Registration required.

July 20 (Sat): Coding Club
2:30 – 3:30
Learn the basics of coding in this self-paced club where we'll use Fiero Code with leader Gabe. Open to ages 8 and up. Limited registration!

July 23 (Tu): Art Kids Academy
3:00 – 4:00
Cosmic art about astronauts! For ages 5+. Registration required.

July 25 (Th): Doodle Bugs
2:00: Group 1 | 3:30: Group 2
Make a simple motorized robot that scribbles! Registration required.

July 27 (Sat): Krafty Kids
2:30 – 3:30
Make a craft with Miss Cara that will be displayed in the library! For ages 5 & up. Registration required.

July 30 (Tu): Art Kids Academy
3:00 – 4:00
Sunset skies & hot air balloons! For ages 5+. Registration required.

August 1: Ending Party
3:30 – 4:30
Play games, make crafts, have fun! We'll also announce the winners of the summer reading prizes!

Weekly Programs

Hello Friends Storytime
Fridays at 10:30 AM
Join Rachel for stories & songs followed by free-play time! Especially for toddlers & preschoolers, but all are welcome.

Coding Club
Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:00
Learn the basics of coding in this self-paced club where we'll use Fiero Code with leader Gabe. Held every Wednesday.
Open to ages 8 and up. Limited registration!

Abacus Club
Saturdays, 1:00 – 2:00
Learn to use an abacus with Jonathan! Abacus learning is can improve arithmetic skills. Runs for six weeks!
Open to ages 6+. Registration required!

Registration is required for most programs! Sign up opens one week before the program starts. Scan here or go to [palparklibrary.org/summer](https://www.palparklibrary.org/summer/) to sign up!



Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
Saturday Early Childhood