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Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grade One through Grade Five:

As we head into the summer months, I want to take a moment to thank you for all your support throughout the school year. Your partnership has played an essential role in your child's learning and growth.

Summer is a wonderful time for students to relax, explore, and enjoy new adventures. It is also the perfect opportunity to keep young minds active and engaged through reading! Just 15–20 minutes of reading each day can make a significant difference in maintaining the skills your child has worked so hard to build during the school year.

In collaboration with the **Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**, all elementary schools are participating in this joint summer reading program. The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge builds upon and links our efforts by reinforcing the importance of reading. **Please have your child return the Reading Challenge Recording Sheet to school at the start of the year.**

Here are a few simple ways to encourage summer reading at home:

- **Visit your local library** and let your child choose books that interest them. Many libraries also offer fun summer reading programs with prizes and activities, so be sure to check them out!
- **Set aside a special reading time** each day—before bed, after lunch, or during a quiet morning hour.
- **Read together as a family or** take turns reading aloud.
- **Talk about books**—ask questions about characters, predictions, or favorite parts.

To assist your child in selecting books, a link to summer reading lists from the CT State Library is listed on the Southington Public Schools website under Summer Information. These titles are only suggestions and students do not have to select from this list. Please guide and assist your child in selecting books to read.

Let's work together to make reading a joyful habit that continues all summer long. Thank you for being a valued partner in your child's education. Wishing you and your family a safe, restful, and book-filled summer!

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