

May 20, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the end of each school year most students have made significant gains in their reading. Unfortunately during the summer, many students do not read, so many of those gains are lost. We are hoping to change this pattern so that when students return to school they will have at least maintained their academic growth, and teachers will not have to spend the first eight weeks of school catching them up to where they were the previous June. Just think about how much more they could achieve within the academic year!!

Consequently, we are encouraging students to read over the summer. Listed below are several ways to achieve that goal:

- Every child will select a book through the RIF program in June. Coming home with that book will be a bookmark. **If the child reads a book over the summer and the parent/guardian signs the bookmark attesting to that, the student can use that bookmark to receive a free new book from our PTA sponsored school book store in September.**
- Enclosed with this letter are some suggested books for middle school aged students. Please do not feel that you must select from this list. Reading material should be chosen on the basis of what your child would enjoy reading. However if you and your child need some direction, it might help.
- The Eastern Monroe Public Library is offering programs for children of middle school age. Stop in to see what is available. They also have a great collection of books and children's librarians to help guide your search.
- Share the reading experience with your child. Create your own book club and talk about the book you are reading, read to your child, talk to them in a friendly way about what they're reading about.
- Summer should be a time when children can self-select their reading material. Allow your child to read what they like. Comic books, newspapers, magazines, books on tape (with child following along in the book), and picture books all require reading and will help them become better readers.

In conclusion, we would like for our students to maintain the reading level that they have worked all year to achieve. That can only happen if the student continues to read over the summer. We hope that their summer reading experience is pleasurable as well as fruitful. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Stroudsburg Middle School Reading Specialists