Dear Parent/Guardian,

Research indicates that students who continue to read during summer months retain more of the skills learned during the school year than those students who do not continue to read. As a result, we want students to engage in enjoyable reading experiences this summer that will contribute to their continued success for the following school year. As we believe in and stress the importance of reading beyond the school year, we will be offering suggested titles that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students who share varied ability levels, learning styles and interests. Stephen Krashen, a linguist and leading researcher in reading, suggests that an often-overlooked method to improve reading is providing readers with a supply of interesting and accessible books by visiting local libraries and bookstores. Research demonstrates that self-selected voluntary reading leads to the greatest gains in reading achievement. (Krashen, S. The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research, 2nd edition. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.)

Your child is encouraged to read at least three books this summer and complete the corresponding Summer Reading Log. The Summer Reading Log is not required, however, upon returning a completed log in September students will receive 10 extra credit points towards a test grade in Language Arts for the first marking period as well as one free homework pass. Completed Summer Reading Logs should be returned to your child’s teacher by September 23, 2019.

Please assist your child in selecting books that are appropriate for his/her reading ability. Students may choose titles from the attached list or from our online list. To find this online leveled reading list, go to the Kearny Schools website: www.kearnyschools.com. On the main page under District Departments, click on the Curriculum and Instruction tab and then click on the Summer Reading link. The Kearny Public Library and the Clifton Barnes and Noble will be given Kearny's Elementary Summer Reading list.

Technology is continuing to grow as an integral component in education today. We invite students to use iPads, Kindles, audiobooks, etc. Students are encouraged to utilize their Raz- Kids (www.raz-kids.com) and Achieve 3000 (https://portal.achieve3000.com/index) accounts to access leveled text online. Students may also go to our Kearny Public Library website: www.kearnylibrary.org and click on the link for “Tumblebooks” for access to a wide variety of ebooks that are available with a library card to read online.

Achieve 3000 will be holding a contest called the “Achieve Summer 40-Activity Challenge.” Students who complete 40 activities with a first try score of 75% or more on each, will be entered into a raffle to win an iPad mini! In addition, each week Achieve 3000 will send an exciting prize to the student with the most achievement points across the nation. These are the points students earn automatically for completing work within the program. No registration is required to join this contest. The contest will run from the first day of summer to the first day of school. A flyer with more information is available on our district website under the Summer Reading link.

We wish you and your family a safe, healthy and fun-filled summer!
Happy Reading!

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