

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe another school year is behind us. Your children have had some wonderful learning experiences during the course of the school year. At Scales we know the learning does not stop at the end of the day or even at the end of the school year. Therefore, we would like to provide you with some suggestions and expectations in the areas of reading, high frequency words, math, and writing to get your child ready for the next grade.

Reading

Did you know; "one summer off can sometimes mean a whole year of struggling academic performance" (McGill-Franzen & Allington, 2003)? If your child reads *a minimum* of 4 to 5 books at his/her level over the summer, he/she will be able to mitigate this problem (Viadero, 2004).

Please refer to the enclosed *suggested* summer reading titles for grade appropriate book ideas. Each grade level has set a summer reading goal. Students who surpass the summer reading goal and then fill out, get a parent signature, and return the attached reading log will be able to participate in a summer reading celebration when school resumes in August. Reading logs can be turned in to your child's teacher next year.

Spelling/High Frequency Words

Within the packet you will find a list of words your child should be able to read, and in some instances, write. These are common words found within your child's reading. Many do not follow common spelling rules, thus making them difficult to remember, read, or write. We encourage you to work with your child over the summer so that he/she feels confident reading and writing them. We suggest that you only work with 25 words at a time. Once those are mastered, move on to the next 25. Below are some activities you could do to make this fun.

- Write the words on flash cards and time your child as he goes through them. Try to beat the time.
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe: Show your child a word; if she knows it then she may put an "X" or "O" on the board. If not, then she misses a turn.
- Newspaper search: See how many of the words your child can find within a specific newspaper/magazine article.
- Have a "Word(s) of the Day": See how many times you use the word(s) in a day. Do a silly motion or make a face when the word is used and then try to spell the word. Make it a competition to see who notices the word being used the most. Try to think of ways to use the word.

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- Concentration: Write each word on two sets of flash cards. Play concentration with the words.
- Choose a big word or phrase like "summer vacation". See how many of the sight words can be made using the letters in that word/phrase.
- Write a story and see how many times you used the words from your list.
- Play Sparkle.

Math

Although reading is an extremely important skill, we do not want to forget about math capabilities and skills. Your child's grade level teachers have enclosed a list of grade level expectations in the area of math so that they are best prepared to enter the grade in front of them.

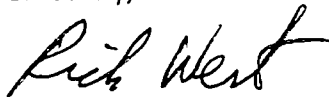
We also highly encourage the use of Study Island over the summer for our students. The program is available all summer long to students that were already registered during this past school year. Be sure to visit Study Island at: www.studyisland.com often.

Writing

Writing, reading, and spelling go hand-in-hand. At Scales, we value the importance of writing and have made the overall improvement of student writing one of our school goals. Attached you will find a sheet with suggested activities to encourage your budding author.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school in August.

Sincerely,



Rick West
Principal

First Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

For students entering 1st grade

We suggest that each child entering first grade read 3-5 books each week this summer. Depending on where your child is as a reader, any of the three options stated on the reading log will be appropriate. Reading may be suggested from, but is not limited to:

Suggested series and authors:

<i>Dr. Seuss</i> books	By Dr. Seuss
<i>Biscuit</i> books	By Alyssa Satin Capucilli
<i>Little Bear</i> books	By Minarik
<i>Frog and Toad</i> books	By Lobel
<i>Clifford</i> books	By Bridewell
<i>Arthur</i>	By Marc Brown
<i>Anno's Counting Book</i>	By Mitsumasa Anno
<i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>	By Bill Martin Jr.
<i>Henry and Mudge</i>	By Cynthia Rylant
<i>Nate The Great</i>	By Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
<i>Froggy</i> books	By Jonathan London
<i>Eric Carle</i> books	

For more reading suggestions go to:

<http://www.hedgehogbooks.com/gradelevel.html>

Math Information for Incoming First Graders

Please come to First grade knowing the following:

- Understand position words (e.g. beside, inside, outside, above, below) using models, illustrations and stories.
- Count backwards from 10 to 1
- Recognizes and order numbers through 25 using numbers.
- Write numbers to 10.
- Recognize: a penny, nickel, dime and quarter.

Other expectations - students are expected to know how to tie their shoes before coming to first grade.

Websites to help keep these skills sharp:

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/month2month.htm>

<http://www.aplusmath.com/>

<http://www.aaastudy.com/kinder.htm>

<http://www.starfall.com/>

<http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com> *username: scales password: books*



Writing at Home

Ideas for Parents

DIALOGUE JOURNALS

Students write just before bedtime (that 5 extra minutes!), parents respond before morning. Children read the responses during breakfast.

BIRTHDAY CARDS

Send to family, friends, neighbors, or people at school.

FAMILY COOKBOOK

Include recipes each family member would enjoy!

THANK YOU CARD

For birthday gifts, special trips or visits, or to someone who reads to them!

PET CARE BOOK

Child creates a book of things to do to care for their pet.

LETTERS TO FRIENDS or FAMILY, E-MAIL

To share ideas, activities and thoughts!

LIST OF THINGS TO DO WHEN...

Child writes procedures for emergency situations.

LETTERS TO FAVORITE AUTHORS

Mary Pope Osborne writes a letter to her readers in many of her Magic Tree House books!

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Have your child write a biography for each family member. Create a family hall of fame and hang the biographies with a picture of each person or put them all in one notebook for a family book!

SCRIPTS

Children love to act out scenes from books! Encourage your child to make decisions about characters and settings and write out directions for each person. Participate in this "play" as a family! Go one step further by videotaping each play on the same tape. Watch this instead of a movie as a family one night!

FREE STUFF

Look for the book, Free Stuff for Kids: 2001. It sells for under \$5.00 and lists hundreds of places kids can write to and receive "free stuff"!