

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.

- 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.

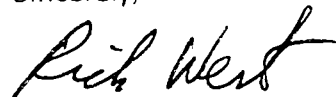
We also highly encourage the use of Study Island over the summer for our students. The program is available all summer long to students that were already registered during this past school year. Be sure to visit Study Island at: www.studyisland.com often.

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

Summer Packet – students entering Third Grade, 2009-2010

Third Grade Reading:

We ask that each student entering third grade read 12-15 hours over the course of the summer. We would also urge that as many genres as possible be included in the reading: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biographies, folktales and fairy tales, magazines, comic books, and any others they wish to read! Your school or public librarian can help you find good selections in each of these. Reading may be selected from, but is certainly not limited to:

A Picture Book Biography Series	by David Adler
The Magic School Bus Series	by Joanna Cole
American Girl Series	by various authors
Matt Christopher Series	by Matt Christopher
Nancy Drew Series	by Carolyn Keene
Magic Tree House Series	by Mary Pope Osborne
Encyclopedia Brown Series	by Donald Sobol
Horrible Harry Series	by Suzy Kline
Nate the Great Series	by Marjorie Sharmat
Fudge Series	by Judy Blume
Ramona Series	by Beverly Cleary
Bailey School Kids	by Debbie Dadey
Hardy Boys Series	by Franklin Dixon
Hank the Cowdog Series	by John Erickson
A to Z Mysteries	by Ron Roy
Hank Zipzer Series	by Henry Winkler
Little House Series	by Laura Wilder
Boxcar Children Series	by Gertrude Warner
Nonfiction Interest Books	by various authors

For more reading suggestions go to: <http://www.hedgehodbooks.com/gradelevel.html>

Third Grade Math:

Please come to third grade knowing the following:

- Addition facts 0-20 memorized
- Subtraction facts 0-20 memorized
- Addition and subtraction with regrouping
- Tell time to five minutes
- Recognizing coins and counting money up to \$5.00

Websites to keep these skills sharp:

Addition and Subtraction Fact Practice:

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

<http://resources.oswego.org/games/mathmagician/cathymath.html>

Simple Time Practice:

<http://www.primarygames.com/time/start.htm>

<http://www.time-for-time.com/game1.htm>

Money:

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/java/counting/money.html>

<http://www.gpb.org/countonit/games/third/money>

All:

<http://www.kidport.com/GRADE3/MATH/MATHINDEX.HTM>

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

<http://aaamath.com/grade3.htm>

