



June, 2010

Dear Families,

As you know, this year the elementary schools have begun to approach reading instruction in a new way. Through Readers' Workshop, we have seen tremendous growth in our children's reading. Now it is vitally important for us to sustain the reading momentum of the school year over the summer.

We know that the average child loses a significant amount of learning over the summer, and the single best way to prevent that "summer lag" is through regular reading experiences. Our goal is for reading to become a habit, a ritual they look forward to each day. We are already thinking ahead to the community of readers we will build next year, and we know that we want to find more time for kids to talk with each other, to find books they love, and to talk about their reading experiences. We are asking for your help and support in sending that message. Summer vacation is the perfect opportunity to relax and enjoy reading just for pleasure! It is also a chance for families to continue to develop habits that will support a lifelong love of reading.

Your child has spent some time over the past couple of weeks thinking about the books that s/he would like to read this summer. We have posted a list of suggested titles on our district's website, [www.bsd-ri.net](http://www.bsd-ri.net) in case your child is still undecided about what to read. Lists of suggestions are also available at our local libraries.

A form is attached to this letter to help you assist your child in making a summer reading plan! On it are several suggestions for helping readers keep track of their reading experiences this summer, and we ask you to please help and encourage your child to do this. In the fall, as we again launch Readers' Workshop, every elementary school teacher will be asking children to share their summer reading experiences and to "sell" their favorite summer reading books to the rest of the class. In the fall, we'll come back together as a community of readers - hopefully after spending the summer finding great new reads that we can't wait to share!

We look forward to hearing all about your summer reading experiences when we return in September. Have a happy, healthy, book-filled summer!

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