

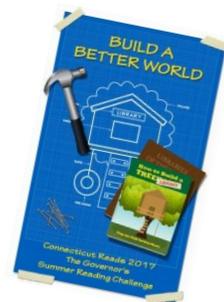
June 7, 2017

Dear MLC students and parents,

Every year, we ask students to read as much as they can over the summer break. This summer, we are excited that MLC's summer reading theme is the same as the Connecticut Governor's Reading Challenge theme: "Build a Better World." We think it is crucial for students to make the connection between reading and making a difference in their world.

What does this mean, in terms of summer reading?

It means that we want students to read, go and, do – to think about how reading can inspire them to positive action.



For instance:

- Reading a novel whose main character has the courage to confront a serious problem may give a reader some ways to handle conflict in their own life.
- Reading a book about the Holocaust may spark a reader's desire to raise awareness about modern-day injustice.
- Reading a news magazine article about pollution may give a reader the passion to create a petition, write a letter to a mayor, or volunteer to create a park clean-up.
- Reading a book of poetry may inspire a reader to write and share their own poems that communicate their own feelings and thoughts to others.

Experiencing the world through reading can provide us with endless insight into how we can make our world (personal, local, or global) a better place!

The Details:

- Your children can read any books (or articles) that they want!
- Students should aim to read a minimum of *20 minutes a day, five days a week* in the summer.
- Students should record what they read on the MLC Summer Reading Log (attached). For each book they read (or for every five (5) articles they read), they will earn a raffle ticket for our gift card raffle.
- Students should bring their completed logs to school by September 6, 2017 to trade it in for their raffle tickets.

Both our school media specialist, Suzanne Artis, and I are available now (and over the summer) to answer questions or provide recommendations for your student readers. Happy summer!

Best,

Emily Wright



****Please see the back of this letter for a handy rationale and links for summer reading****



The case for summer reading

The reasons why we believe so strongly in consistent reading in the summer have everything to do with the research regarding “summer slide” and academic progress. In a nutshell, students who read during the summer maintain the learning that they developed during the course of the previous school year. The research is also clear about the effects of students *not* reading over the summer:

- Students can lose up to 25 percent of their reading level over the summer.
- Students can lose up to three months of their education over the summer.
- This loss is cumulative – so by the time a student enters high school or middle school, he or she could be years behind grade-level standards.

- From the Durham, NC Public Schools website (<http://dpsnc.net/read/>)

(For more information, go to http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know_the_facts or <http://scholar.harvard.edu/jameskim/publications/how-make-summer-reading-effective>)

Recommendations for summer reading (see our MLC website for more!)

- For incoming 7th and 8th grade students only: they received “CREC Summer Adventure” bags, which includes a book, Math enrichment, directions for participating in summer reading via Schoology, book recommendations, and other important information.

Please be sure to ask your child about their Summer Adventure Bags!

- CT Governor’s Reading Challenge suggested summer reading lists:
 - Grade 6: http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/ctread/2017_ctread_grade5_6.pdf
 - Grades 7-8: http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/ctread/2017_ctread_grade7_8.pdf
 - Grades 9-12: http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/ctread/2017_ctread_grade9_12.pdf
- Nutmeg Book Award 2018 Nominees:
 - Intermediate (gr. 4-6): <http://www.nutmegaward.org/elementary/intermediate>
 - Teen (gr. 7-8): <http://www.nutmegaward.org/teen>
 - High School (gr. 9-12): <http://www.nutmegaward.org/high-school>

(for paper copies of any of these lists, students can ask their Reading or Writing teachers, Ms. Artis, or Mrs. Wright to print them. Local libraries also have copies of these lists available for students.)

