

HKA Primary Library

Summer Reading Fun 2017

Dear HKA Primary Students and Parents,

It has been another wonderful year of reading and learning in our library. Our students' enthusiasm and passion for the stories we share, the books they read, the authors and topics they inquire about, is contagious and keeps spreading and growing. To keep this wonderful momentum going during the upcoming long break, we want to share some ideas and, of course reading suggestions, with you to make summer reading a fun experience for the whole family.

As always with our summer reading, there are no rules and you are welcome to adapt the suggestions and ideas to suit your family's needs. Each week is under a particular theme; you can pick and choose from the themes, whatever catches your interest, at any time during the summer (even though I will be posting them in the order listed below on the [Primary Library blog](#)). We hope that you will consider making some of the ideas of the "Let's Read Together" theme part of your summer routine, including it throughout the entire break.

As always, we have included suggested books that connect with the themes. Please, keep in mind when selecting books that the lists represent a wide range of interest and text levels, from picture to chapter books and middle grades novels, some more suitable for younger, others more suitable for older readers. You might also like to explore the **Summer Reading Suggestions 2017**, which have more specific ideas for grade level ranges. These, as well as other online resources are available through our [Primary Portal page](#) and the [Summer Reading 2017 Padlet](#).

A big THANK YOU to everyone for making our library such a special place, for being part of our reading community, for sharing your passion and love of good stories!

With much gratitude and best wishes for a wonderful summer break,

Tanja & Alison

Summer Reading Themes

(Feel free to pick and choose the themes in any order.)

1. Let's Get Ready For Summer Together!
2. Let's Read Together!
3. Let's Travel & Explore Together!
4. Let's Be Creative Together!
5. Let's Write Together!
6. Let's Cook Together!
7. Let's Inquire Together!
8. Let's Get Ready For the New School Year Together!

Week 1: June 19-25, 2017

Let's Get Ready For Summer Together!

The first week of the summer holidays - are you excitedly looking ahead to the next eight weeks? I bet you are! You have worked hard throughout the school year and it is time for some extra fun, relaxation and new adventures.

Here are a couple of ideas of what you might like to do to get ready for the amazing time that lies ahead, to make sure you get and make the most out of it. Happy Summer Reading, Happy Summer Time!

Start a Summer Journal / Scrapbook

Keeping a summer journal is a wonderful idea of collecting memories, of recording books you have read, places you have seen, people you have met. You can write, draw, sketch, add photos, tickets, newspaper articles, anything interesting or memorable you come across.

Make Lists

Making lists is a wonderful way of planning and getting excited about the holidays. What do you hope to do this summer? What are you looking forward to reading? Who are you hoping to see? Write down a few of your ideas, either in your summer journal or any other format that works for you.

Read! Read! Read!

Enjoy all the extra reading time available. Here are a few wonderful books about summer:

Picture Books

Away (Emil Sher)

And Then Comes Summer (Tom Brenner)

Jabari Jumps (Gaia Cornwall)

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever (Marla Frazee)

Splash Anna Hibiscus (Atinuke)

Perfect (Danny Parker)

The Boy on the Beach (Niki Daly)

Pool (Jihyeon Lee)

Beach House (Deanna Caswell)

The House Takes a Vacation (Jacqueline Davies)

Chapter books and novels for the middle grades

Letters From Camp (Kate Klise and M. Sarah Klise)

Tortilla Sun (Jennifer Cervantes)

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters (Lenore Look)

Summer Stories (Enid Blyton)

Any Which Wall (Laurel Snyder)

The Penderwicks (Jeanne Birdsall)

Touch Blue (Cynthia Lord)

The Simple Things (Bill Condon)

The Great Good Summer (Liz Garton Scanlon)

Secrets of the Cicada Summer (Andrea Beaty)

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Summer Vacation (Tommy Greenwald)

Week 2: June 26 - July 2, 2017

Let's Read Together!

One of the best things about summer is the extra time we have to read together. Here are some ideas to make your summer reading together extra special. I hope you will consider making some of these part of your daily/weekly summer routine throughout the long break. Happy Reading!

Have a daily D.E.A.R. time - Drop Everything And Read - a time for the whole family to come together, everybody reading. This could be at any time during the day and can be as short as 15min (but I am sure you might like to make it much longer than that ;).)

Have a weekly family book club meeting - Choose a book you might all enjoy, then talk about it: what did you enjoy? What are you wondering about? How does it connect to your life, to other books you have read, to the world around you? You can use any kind of book for this - from wordless picture books to chapter books and middle grade novels - as long as it is suitable and accessible to everyone in the family. Make sure you have some special treats ready to enjoy your book club meeting.

Discover/choose/make a favorite reading spot together - If you are traveling a lot in the upcoming weeks, you could make it your goal to discover some beautiful reading spots; if you are staying mostly in the same place, create a special place for your daily reading.

Make a trip to the library and/or bookstore - explore and choose some books that you want to read this summer, share recommendations with each other. One of our third graders suggested I include a little scavenger hunt. Here are a few ideas what you might try to find:

A picture book by an author you know

A chapter book by an author you know

A nonfiction book about a topic that interests you

Are the books arranged in the same way as in our library (fiction by the author's last name, nonfiction by topic)?

Choose an audiobook the whole family can enjoy - You could listen to it together for example during a long car journey

If you have a computer/iPad and Internet access, **explore the wonderful reading resources our Tumble Books subscription** offers you and your family (feel free to email me in case you have forgotten our username and password.)

And here are a few title suggestions:

A few picture books around reading and stories

How to Read a Story (Kate Messner)

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore (William Joyce)

Bunny's Book Club (Annie Silvestro)

The Whisper (Pamela Zagarenski)

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You (Mary Ann Hoberman) - reader's theatre

The Storyteller's Candle (Lucia Gonzalez)

A few chapter books about reading and stories

The Year of the Book (Andrea Cheng)

My Life as a Book (Janet Tashjian)

Bronte's Book Club (Kristiana Gregory)

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading (Tommy Greenwald)

Ink Heart (Cornelia Funke)

A few chapter books that make wonderful family read-alouds

Adventures with Waffles (Maria Parr)

The Tale of Despereaux (Kate DiCamillo)

Alvin Ho: Allergic to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Other Tourist Attractions (Lenore Look)

Pinocchio (Michael Morpurgo)

Rain May and Captain Daniel (Catherine Bateson)

Words With Wings (Nikki Grimes)

Week 3: July 3 - July 9, 2017

Let's Travel & Explore Together!

I know that many of you travel during the break, a wonderful opportunity to discover new places, meet new people and/or catch up with family and friends.

Here are some activities you might enjoy doing during your travels this summer:

Visit a museum to find out more about the history of your surroundings.

Find out more about your family's history by talking to family members.

Read about the city/country you are visiting.

Inquire about what travelling was like before modern means of transportation were invented.

Here are some title suggestions of books around traveling and exploring:

A few picture books about traveling

The Airport Book (Lisa Brown)

Are We There Yet? (Dan Santat)

Journey (Aaron Becker)

Oh the Places You'll Go! (Dr. Seuss)

Once There Was a Boy (Oliver Jeffers)

A few chapter books and middle grade novels about journeys

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (Kate DiCamillo)

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (Grace Lin)

Journey to the River Sea (Eva Ibbotson)

Kensuke's Kingdom (Michael Morpurgo)

The Magic Tree House series (Mary Pope Osborne)

A few nonfiction books around travelling and exploring

Hello World! A Celebration of Languages and Curiosities (Jonathan Litton)

The Quest for Z: The True Story of Explorer Percy Fawcett and a Lost City in the Amazon (Greg Pizzoli)

Shackleton's Journey (William Grill)

The Uncommon Traveler: Mary Kingsley in Africa (Don Brown)

A Voyage in the Clouds (Matthew Olshan)

'*This is the World*' series (Miroslav Sasek)

Leap & Hop travel books for kids (Isabelle Demenge)

Lonely Planet 'Not For Parents' series

Week 4: July 10 - July 16, 2017

Let's Be Creative Together!

When I was a child, art classes worried me. I always thought that I could not draw and consequently would never be good at art. I wish I had known then what I know now; there is so much more to art than drawing, there are so many different ways to be creative, using all kinds of media, from colored pencils to recycled materials; there is a way for everyone to be creative, express ideas and have fun at the same time. Be creative and have fun with whatever materials you have available where you are right now and enjoy experimenting.

Here are some ideas of what you might enjoy doing:

Create art together, using all kinds of tools, media and materials (you might find inspiration here: *Out of the Box* by Jemma Westing)

Illustrate a favorite story

Make a comic book

Visit an art gallery together

Read together about art, artists and being creative! Here are a few suggestions:

A few picture books around art and being creative

Nico Draws a Feeling (Bob Raczka)

The Book of Mistakes (Corinna Luyken)

Swatch - The Girl Who Loved Colors (Julia Denos)

The Dot - and other picture books by Peter H. Reynolds

Beautiful Oops (Barney Saltzberg)

Brush of Gods; Polka Dotted Penguin Pottery (Lenore Look)

A few chapter books about art and being creative

Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club (Niki Daly)

Henry and the Chalk Dragon (Jennifer Trafton)

Bea Garcia series (Deborah Zemke)

Meeting Cezanne (Michael Morpurgo)

Masterpiece (Elise Broach)

A few picture book biographies about artists

Henri's Scissors (Jeanette Winter)

Frida (Jonah Winter)

Sandy's Circus (Tanya Lee Stone)

The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau (Michelle Markel)

Roy's House (Susan Goldman Rubin)

A few graphic novels

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea (Ben Clanton)

Hippopotamister (John Patrick Green)

Hilda and the Stone Forest (Luke Pearson)

Ghosts (Raina Telgemeier)

Roller Girl (Victoria Jamieson ?)

... and for our younger readers:

Toon Books like *Benny & Penny* (Geoffrey Hayes), *Something's Fishy* (Kevin McCloskey), *Little Mouse Gets Ready* (Jeff Smith)

Week 5: July 17 - July 23, 2017

Let's Write Together!

We have inquired about many authors this year across the Primary school grades and I noticed that our students' questions and wonderings are often connected to the actual writing process. In our Skype visit with Rob Buyea, the author commended our fifth graders for the many great questions about writing, for wanting to learn more about it from a published author. But also our youngest students are already enthusiastic bookmakers. So, student writers, share some of your writing and book making expertise with your parents this week.

Some writing activities and prompts you might enjoy:

Write about a favorite summer day or other memory.

Go to a park or sit in a café and observe the people around you. Make up a story about one of the people you notice.

Ponder about one of the following questions and write down your answer: What would happen if children ruled the world? If you could invent anything, what would it be and why? If you could meet a famous person, who would it be and why?

Organize a special "author afternoon tea" during which everyone gets to share some of their writing.

Here are some title suggestions of books around writing:

Picture Books

I Am A Story (Dan Yaccarino)

Also an Octopus (Maggie Tokuda-Hall)

Little Red Writing (Jean Holub)

Ralph Tells a Story (Abby Hanlon)

How This Book Was Made (Mac Barnett)

Chapter books and novels for the middle grades

Words With Wings (Nikki Grimes)

Dear Mr. Henshaw (Beverly Cleary)

Tofu Quilt (Ching Yeung Russell)

Love That Dog and Hate That Cat (Sharon Creech)

Brown Girl Dreaming (Jacqueline Woodson)

Picture book biographies about authors

John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien (Caroline McAlister)

Some Writer: The Story of E.B. White (Melissa Sweet)

Beatrix Potter and her Paint Box (David MacPhail)

Enormous Smallness: A Story of E.E. Cummings (Matthew Burgess)

Louisa May's Battle: How the Civil War Led to Little Women (Kathleen Krull)

Week 6: July 24 - July 30, 2016

Let's Cook Together!

Having lots of time to share a meal with family and friends is something else I treasure during the summer, even more so when the meal was prepared together. I love being in the kitchen with my family, chatting while we are cooking. I encourage you to explore cookbooks/cooking websites (for example [Kids Cooking Activities](#)), choose and plan for a particular recipe, buy the ingredients and cook together to enjoy a very special meal. You might even consider inviting relatives and/or friends to join you. Make sure to choose a special place to enjoy your meal as well.

Here are a few special reading suggestions connected to cooking and food:

A few food-themed picture books

Make an Apple Pie and Travel the World (Marjorie Priceman)

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (Judi Barrett)

Cora Cooks Pancit (Dorina K. Lao Gilmore)

The Boy Who Wanted to Cook (Gloria Whelan)

Everybody Loves Dim Sum; The Ugly Vegetables (Grace Lin)

Boy Dumpling; The Runaway Wok (Ying Chang Compestine)

A few food-themed chapter books

Recipe for Adventure series (Giada De Laurentiis)

Granny Torelli Cooks Soup (Sharon Creech)

Phoebe G. Green: A Passport to Pastries (Veera Hiranandani)

Pie (Sarah Weeks)

The Candymakers (Wendy Mass)

Week 7: July 31 - August 6, 2017

Let's Inquire Together!

Students at HKA are wonderful inquirers; they always have lots of wonderings and questions and I love when I get a chance to be part of their finding answers to these questions during inquiry circles. I know that the questions and wonderings don't stop during the holidays; so how about doing some inquiries together? Record your questions and wonderings and what you think you already know about the topic. Then explore available resources (books, websites, people knowledgeable about the topic, your own experiments and observations) to find answers to your questions.

And here are, as always, a few books you might enjoy reading in connection with the theme of inquiring.

A few picture books around inquiring

Ada Twist, Scientist (Andrea Beaty)

Because of an Acorn (Lola M. Scafer)

Goodnight Spaceman (Michelle Robinson)

Professor Astrocat's Atomic Adventure (Dominic Walliman)

Wilfred Gordon MacDonald Partridge (Mem Fox)

A few chapter books and middle grade novels around inquiring

Sky Hawk (Gill Lewis)

Beetle Boy (M.G. Leonard)

Frank Einstein series (Jon Scieszka)

George's Secret Key to the Universe (Lucy and Stephen Hawking)

The Wheel on the School (Meindert DeJong)

A few picture biographies about famous inquirers and scientists

Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian (Margarita Engle)

Star Stuff (Stephanie Sisson)

Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine (Laurie Wallmark)

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein (Jennifer Berne)

Me... Jane (Patrick McDonnell)

Margaret and the Moon (Dean Robbins)

A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver (Aliki)

A few nonfiction books

The Everything Kids' Science Experiments Book (Tom Robinson)

The Way Things Work (David Macaulay)

Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes (Nicola Davies)

The ABC Book of Rockets, Planets and Outer Space (Helen Martin)

Jake's Bones (Jake McGowan-Lowe)

Week 8: Aug 7 - Aug 13, 2017

Let's Get Ready For the New School Year Together!

It's hard to believe but the summer break is nearing its end. I hope you all had a wonderful time and look forward to being back in school soon. Teachers are already in school this week, getting everything ready for your start next week. You have a couple of more days to rest and relax, and get ready for the new school year. Here are some activities you might enjoy doing:

Chat with your family about your favorite moments of the summer.

Write down one or more lists that highlight some of your holiday fun. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

My Top 3 Moments This Summer

My Top 3 Places Visited This Summer

My Top 3 Activities This Summer

My Top 3 Foods Eaten This Summer

My Top 3 Books Read This Summer

You could also make it into a collage, adding pictures, drawings etc.

Chat with your family about what you are looking forward to, what you are nervous about when thinking about the new school year.

Get in some more extra reading time!

Here are a few picture books you might enjoy reading as the summer comes to an end and you are preparing to return to school:

How I Spent My Summer Vacation (Mark Teague)

Pictures From Our Vacation (Lynne Rae Perkins)

The Truth About My Unbelievable Summer (Davide Calli)

How to Get Your Teacher Ready (Jean Reagan)

I Am Too Absolutely Small For School (Lauren Child)

The Exceptionally, Extraordinarily Ordinary First Day of School (Albert Lorenz)

Dear Teacher (Amy Husband)

Once Upon an Ordinary School Day (Colin McNaughton)

My Friend is as Sharp as a Pencil: And Other Funny Classroom Portraits (Hanoch Piven)

My Teacher Sleeps in School (Leatie Weiss)

Or go to some of your all-time favorites - here are some of mine, what are yours?

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore (William Joyce)

A Child of Books (Oliver Jeffers)

Last Stop on Market Street (Matt de la Pena)

Zen Shorts (Jon Muth)

Love As Strong As Ginger (Lenore Look)

Fly, Eagle, Fly! (Christopher Gregorowski)

Ms. Alison and I are looking forward to seeing you next week. Enjoy your last week off!