June 2017

Dear Incoming First Grade Parents,

The up-and-coming summer vacation is not only the perfect time for your children to play, visit new places and spend extra time with family and friends, it is also the perfect time to maintain reading momentum and develop new skills. We encourage you to continue reading aloud to your child on a regular basis during the summer as well as the school year. Research shows that hearing books read aloud is directly correlated to a child's future academic growth and success in school.

We suggest that you and your children read from a variety of genres including picture books, poetry, fairy tales, early chapter books ("easy readers") and non-fiction books. Mrs. D’Urso, Primary School Librarian, has posted a list of recommended books for incoming first grade students on the Primary School Library's website. The suggested summer reading list includes a variety of reading levels to support the diverse needs of our students. You can access the suggested summer reading list via the following link:

http://tinyurl.com/mkasummerreading

We believe that books are not only meant to be read but “experienced”. With this in mind, we have created additional resources to help your children engage with books. On the summer reading website, you will find:

- a "Reading Enrichment: Reflection" packet that challenges students to reflect on their reading through a variety of activities.
- a "Reading Enrichment: Summer of STEAM" guide that links picture books to activities related to science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).
- a link to MKA's Tumblebook Library e-book collection, which includes animated talking picture books in English, French and Spanish, as well as nonfiction books and educational games (http://tinyurl.com/mkaebooks).

If you are looking for additional book suggestions, Mrs. D'Urso has started a book review website you can visit at the following link for more book recommendations throughout the year: http://librarymom.com.

Please keep in mind that your local public library is another wonderful resource for books and reading lists. We hope that you have a great summer and enjoy many special moments reading together!

Sincerely,

Donna Carrara
Primary School Curriculum Coordinator

Rosemary D'Urso
Primary School Librarian