



Creative With Reading and Writing!

Summer Calendar Activities

June 15, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This time of year the question that I am most frequently asked is, "What can I do to help my child continue learning over the summer?" In answer, Great Seneca Creek Elementary School is offering Summer Journal Activities to students going into Grades 3, 4 or 5. Our theme this summer is "**Be Creative With Reading and Writing**".

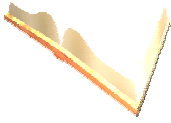
The activities included on the journal list offer students the opportunity to read and write for various purposes and outcomes. Library visits are recommended as part of the program to select interesting and appropriate books for these activities. The journal can easily be used in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries' program entitled "Summer Reading 2009: Be Creative!" which provides incentives to keep students reading and writing during the summer months.

The requirements for successfully completing the Summer Reading packet are simple. **Students should complete eight or more journal activities and are also required to read a minimum of two (three is encouraged) days a week for 15 to 20 minutes.** Students may buy or make a journal to record their writings and titles of books read. Then, on or before **Friday, September 4**, students should bring their completed journals to their homeroom teacher. A celebration will be held during the second week of school to honor their reading and writing efforts over the summer. We are aiming for 100% participation and hope to see your child(ren) at our special celebration!

In addition to completing the reading and writing activities described above, we would like to offer an **OPTIONAL** activity to motivate our great Bullfrog readers. We can show everyone how much we value reading by logging the total number of minutes read this summer, as a school, on the Scholastic website. The top 20 schools will be listed in the Scholastic Book of World Records! Please see the attached memo for more information.

Sincerely,

Principal, Gregory S. Edmundson



Be Creative!



Summer Journal Activities 2009

1. Create a banner to share a book you have read this summer.
2. Explore your backyard. List all the things you can discover that are signs of summer. Create a "Signs of Summer" book.
3. Go outside and study a flower. List all the words you can to describe it. Write a poem about the flower using some of your words.
4. Make a list of all the words you can think of that describe a character in the book you are reading. Now, try to think of 10 more you can add to your list.
5. Make a map of an imaginary ant colony. Label all of the things in your colony. Read about ants in a book or on-line.
6. Listen to the radio. Draw a picture to go with a song you heard. Label your picture.
7. Create a sandwich to take on a backyard picnic. Write the recipe for the sandwich. Be sure to include the ingredients and directions that tell how to make it. Make one and take it outside and read for 15 minutes.
8. Make a puppet of your favorite book character. Write a paragraph telling how you made your puppet.
9. Write the instructions for your favorite game so that a friend would understand how to play.
10. Read a mystery book. Web the character traits of one of the characters. Tell what the character did to show each trait.
11. Write a newspaper review that gives your opinion of one of the books you read this summer. Be sure to include what you liked and did not like about the book. Use examples to support your opinions.
12. Choose an illustration from one of the books you have read. Write a paragraph explaining the illustration.
13. Read about the author of one of the books you have read this summer. (You can use the internet if you have permission from a parent.) Create a book jacket and include a list of interesting facts that you learned about this person.
14. Write a poem about one of the books you read this summer that would convince your friends to read it.

15. Write or draw about today's weather. Label your picture. Read about the different kinds of clouds in a book or on-line. Add some of this information to your picture.
16. Think about the book you are reading. Write clues that will help a friend guess the setting. Make sure to include things you would see, hear, smell, wear, and do there.
17. Write a new ending to a book you read this summer.
18. Create a postcard showing all the activities you are doing this summer. Use the back to write a message telling why each activity has been fun.
19. Write a letter to a friend telling about all information you have discovered from the nonfiction books you have read this summer.
20. Think of a book you read this summer. Write about or draw what happened at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the book.
21. Find an advertisement in a magazine or a newspaper for a toy you would like to have. Cut out the picture and then write a note to a family member that might persuade them to buy it for you.
22. Plan a summer treasure hunt for your family and friends. Write about your plan. Include a list of all the things you would need. Make a map with clues to find the treasures.
23. Draw a setting from a book you are reading. Label your picture.
24. Write a letter to the author of one of the books you have read this summer. Be sure to include one thing you noticed about the author's style. Send it to the author. (Look on their website for their address.)
25. Write all the words you can make out of the letters in the words "Be Creative in Reading and Writing!" Use these words to write a creative story.
26. Tell a friend about 10 activities that could take the place of watching television or playing video games. Convince them to try one with you.
27. Compare yourself to a book character you read about this summer. Write how you compare and contrast with this character. Use examples from the book to explain your comparisons.
28. Create your own reading or writing activity with your parent(s)!

More reading and writing activities are available on the Scholastic website. Be sure to check them out when you join the Scholastic Summer Challenge.

www.scholastic.com/summer

Read for the World Record!

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Student Name _____

Grade _____

Help set the new summer reading *Scholastic World Record* by reading as much as you can. Use this handy reading log to record your time. To make sure your minutes are counted toward the record, please register and log them online at <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/record/>.

	<i>Book or Article Titles</i>	<i>Minutes Read</i>
<i>Week 1</i>		
<i>Week 2</i>		
<i>Week 3</i>		
<i>Week 4</i>		
<i>Week 5</i>		
<i>Week 6</i>		
<i>Week 7</i>		
<i>Week 8</i>		
<i>Week 9</i>		
<i>Week 10</i>		

TOTAL MINUTES READ = _____

Be sure to log your minutes at <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/record/>!