



## **SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents,

Summer is a time for everyone to read for enjoyment and for children to maintain the reading progress they achieved during the school year. Without exercise, the reading muscles that have been strengthened will become weak. Research shows that reading at least four books during the summer helps children avoid the summer slide that can put them at a disadvantage when they return to school. It is equally important to reading success for children to choose a variety of book genres and “just right” books.

Please plan to include reading as one of your family’s fun activities this summer. Recommended book lists for all grade levels will be available on the Samuel Staples Elementary School web site (<http://samuelstaplesps.org/MediaCenter/SR> ), as will all of the summer reading materials being sent home on June 12. The summer reading packet will include a Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge log, on which children can record the books they read. As an alternative, the reading log available at the Easton Public Library may also be used.

In collaboration with the Easton Public Library, our summer reading theme is “Be Creative,” which also perfectly supports our school’s H.O.T.S. philosophy. To encourage creativity, students are being asked to create a paper and/or cloth t-shirt describing a favorite book that is read this summer. (See instructions on the back of this sheet.) Students entering Kindergarten through Grade 2 are encouraged to complete the paper t-shirt on the attached template. Students entering Grades 3 to 5 are required to read at least one book of their choice and complete a paper or cloth t-shirt.

To assist students entering Grades 3 to 5 with the cloth t-shirt project, the Easton Public Library will be offering several workshops during the last week of July and first week of August. Pre-registration will be required. Participants should bring a white t-shirt, a piece of cardboard and a plan for their t-shirt based on their book choice using the template and instructions. The library will supply the other materials.

When students return to school, we are planning a Summer Reading Spirit Day in September. This will be a school-wide celebration to kick off the 2009-2010 school year and to demonstrate renewed enthusiasm for reading. On that date, students should bring/wear the t-shirt they created, as well as their summer reading log. We are hoping for 100% participation this year!

Thank you in advance for making the joy of reading an important part of your summer. We look forward to seeing the products of our student’s creativity and enthusiasm for reading.

  
Kimberly Fox-Santora  
Principal