

June 2022

Dear Families,

Children acquire news skills throughout the school year, but they can lose ground if learning stops during the summer break. Fortunately, learning never has to stop. Children who read throughout the summer gain skills and develop a better understanding of language and the world around them. Please encourage them to experience the joy of reading, the doorway to all other learning.

Key things to remember in supporting your child are:

- **Allow your child to choose the books he or she reads.** Studies have shown the benefits of choice in reading development. Expose your child to a wide variety of reading materials, but let him or her be the final decision-maker.
- **Reading is most effective when adults provide guidance and make sure that kids understand what they're reading.** Ask questions about what your child is reading – who, what, where, when, why and how; summarize or ask your child to summarize; and reread hard-to-understand passages. Essentially, make reading a more interactive process to boost fluency and comprehension.
- **Practicing math skills everyday** will help avoid a summer slump. (over for more information)

It is a requirement for students entering into Grade Six to read ONE novel over the summer break. The students are required to write a one page summary for the novel they have read. This summary will be collected on the first day of school.

It is required that students entering into Sixth Grade read ONE novel of their choice over the Summer break. Students should compose a one page summary detailing the main idea of the novel. This summary will be collected on the first day of school. **In addition to the Summer reading, you will find ONE packet (ELA.)** It is required that students entering into Grade Six complete this packet over the Summer break and bring it in on the first day of school. **Students should also complete their Summer Solutions book. It will help students practice their math skills.** We strongly believe that students who reinforce these skills will have a better understanding of prerequisite material, which will allow them to transition into the next grade level with ease.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see below for Mrs. Sturman and Mrs. Kubina's contact information.

Mrs. Sturman: gmachin@sfaacademy.org

Mrs. Kubina: tkubina@sfaacademy.org

Five Ways to Beat the Summer Math Slump

- **Highlight the math in everyday activities.** When shopping, help kids calculate change or discounts. When watching a baseball game, talk about what players' statistics mean. When cooking, try halving or doubling a recipe, and assist kids in figuring out the new proportions.
- **Read short math stories together.** Studies have shown that reading math-focused stories to children, such as **Bedtime Math books** or the **Family Math series**, can help boost math scores in school.
- **Play math games.** Games like Yahtzee, Racko, Blokus, Monopoly, and Set all rely on skills necessary for math, such as counting, categorizing, and building. Even playing with blocks and assembling jigsaw puzzles can help kids learn spatial skills and recognize patterns.
- **Find small ways to practice math at home.** While worksheets alone won't solve summer math slump, small amounts of practice with basic formulas can help. Problem-of-the-day math calendars are a great way to practice basic math problems on a small scale. Parents can also find resources on **Investigations** about what types of mathematical procedures they should be practicing with their children.
- **Use math apps or online games/resources.**