Prevent the “Summer Slide”

What is “Summer Slide”?  “Summer Slide” is a term used to describe the decline in reading achievement children suffer just from being away from school.  Unless children read in the summer months, they fall behind in reading skills.  Reading, like playing a sport or musical instrument, is not something that is mastered once and for all at a certain age.  It is a skill that continues to improve through practice.  **Kids who read, succeed!**

The St. Joseph School Literacy Committee has come up with some ideas to help your child stay engaged and excited about summer reading.  Here are some suggestions:

- **“Read six books to summer success.”**  Research shows that reading just six books during the summer can help keep children on track with reading.  Be sure the books are just right, however.  Not too hard and not too easy.

- Check out one or more of the reading programs available.  These include the *St. Joe’s Summer Reading Club* (turn this sheet over for details), *Sylvania Public Library* summer program, *Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Club*, or *Scholastic’s Summer Reading Challenge*.  ([www.scholastic.com/summer](http://www.scholastic.com/summer)).

- Read the book (or comic) and then see the movie.  Compare and contrast them.

- Start your own book club with friends.  Get together to read a great book!

- Read something each day.  Take advantage of every opportunity to read.  Remember… newspaper articles, magazines, restaurant menus and comics count!

- Don’t give up having your child read aloud to you, and vice versa.  To make it more interesting, find a fun place to read together—perhaps at the park, or in a tree house or by a lake or pond.  Wherever it is, you’re never too old to have a story read to you!

- Check out a museum.  Children’s Museums, Science Museums and History Museums are interesting, fun and full of learning opportunities.

- Cook with your kids.  Recipes are a great way to practice reading and math skills.

- Combine excursions with books.  Going to a baseball game this summer?  Encourage your child to read about his/her favorite player before the game.

- Participate in creative literacy activities.  These encourage reading and extend a book’s appeal with crafts, games, recipes and activities that correspond with a book.

- Create puppets and put on a play for neighborhood friends.  Practicing the play will provide opportunity for repeated readings which is a great way to build fluency.  Google *Readers’ Theater* for scripts.

- Encourage your child to journal their summer experiences.  Have your child write, using special pens or markers, in a special book.  Use stickers to reward your child for his/her effort.

- Don’t forget the St. Joseph School website is full of wonderful links to help with, not only reading, but other subjects as well!  ([www.stjosephschoolsylvania.org](http://www.stjosephschoolsylvania.org))

**Have a summer full of fun, and...**

**Remember: Kids who read, succeed!**