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Summer reading makes a difference

Posted: Wednesday, Jun 11th, 2014
BY: Jennifer Sommer

MENDOTA - "No more school, no more books" is a familiar summer chant, but children that do not continue to read throughout the summer months will lose some of their comprehension and reading fluency by the time they return to school in the fall.

"At the beginning of the school year, we have to play catch-up. Sometimes it takes the first quarter, nine weeks, to get the kids caught up," said Vicki Johnson, Lincoln School principal.

Johnson stated that some students fall back as far as winter and fall testing scores from the previous year. Most kids are able to eventually regain the loss, but not all students can catch up that easily. Those students get farther and farther behind each year - all because of the lack of reading over the summer break.

Practicing math facts can be just as crucial as reading, too, Johnson said.

The state of Illinois is offering Find-a-Book, Illinois (www.lexile.com/fab/Illinois/) and Summer Math Challenge



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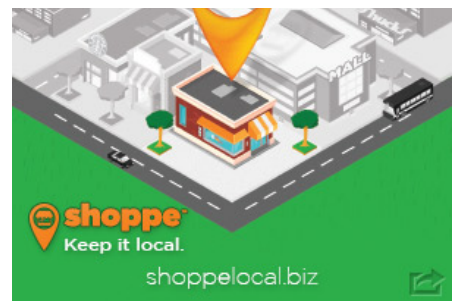


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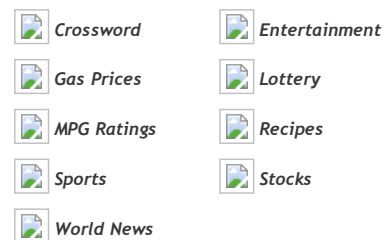
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(www.quantiles.com/content/summer-math-challenge/) to help parents fight the summer learning slide.

The online Find-a-Book utility provides a way for parents and children to quickly and easily search books that match a child's reading level and interests as well as locate a local library carrying each title. The summer math challenge is a free math skills maintenance program targeted to students who have just completed grade 2 through 5 and is designed to help children retain math skills learned during the previous school year. From June 23 through Aug. 1, parents who enroll their children in the program will receive daily emails with fun activities and links to educational resources.

Another way to encourage summer reading is by participating in a summer reading program.

Last year, the Graves-Hume Public Library's summer reading program enrolled over 240 participants. This year, the library is offering an animal-themed "Paws the Read" summer reading program. The month-long program includes many events and activities that encourage a love of reading for 3-year olds through adult.

For the complete article see the 06-11-2014 issue.

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