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Dear Heatly Families,

Let's encourage our students in grades K – 6 to **“Dive into Reading”** and our students in grades 7 – 12 to **“Chill Out and Read!”** Summer can be a season full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that students may experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? It is called, “the summer slide” (and that's not the one at the park!).

So what can you do as a parent/guardian to help your child stop the “the summer slide”? Studies show that children who read **four or more “just right” books** over the summer do better on reading tests in the fall than those who read only one or no books over the summer. Also, asking questions about what your child is reading can help with comprehension.

The Heatly Summer Challenge is a summer long program designed to motivate all children to read books for **fun**. Motivating students to read doesn't have to be costly, and can even be free if you visit your local library. Here is what Heatly families need to do for our students to earn some prizes:

- ✓ Your students should choose “just right” books they want to read. (Read the article on how to find a “just right” book). They can visit the Watervliet or Cohoes Public Libraries.
- ✓ Make sure they record **all** books read on the **reading log**. A parent/guardian must sign the Reading Log in order for the student to receive credit and earn a prize.
- ✓ **The student and class who read the most books will receive a prize when they submit their reading logs to their teachers in September.**
- ✓ Students in grades K – 6 should fill out a **Read, Relate, Respond** sheet for each book they read. Students in grades 7 – 12 should fill out a **Critics Corner** sheet for each book they read. (This is optional, but strongly recommended!)

In September, there will be ONE K – 6 student **and** class who will receive a special prize for **“Dive into Reading!”** There will also be ONE 7 – 12 student **and** English class who will receive a special prize for **“Chill Out and Read.”** I am working on prizes and hope to include: certificates to a dinner, movie, bowling and more!!

Have a wonderful summer!

Stefania Tedesco

Literacy Coach

Green Island UFSD