**Getting Ready for Summer Reading and Writing!**

Adapted from http://readingandwritingproject.org/news/preparing-children-for-the-summer-ahead

1. Fill your students’ **book bags**! This is a great time to go through your classroom library and ***send home any books*** that are ready for “retirement.” Try to send home “Just Right” books for each student, but even a quick book introduction or reading the first few pages of a book will set them up to comprehend more difficult texts with higher accuracy. Literacy coaches will be filling book bags for below grade level readers.

2. Fill up student **writing folders!** Give them ***fresh, new writing paper*** or a ***new notebook*** and dedicate some time the last week of school for students to imagine and plan their summer writing. For example, if they are going to summer camp, suggest they create a science notebook to record what they see or keep a journal to share with their friends or family when they get home. If they are traveling to their home country, perhaps they can write a travel log or a personal narrative about the experience. Ask your students, “What structure will be best for your summer writing?” “What paper or notebook will be best?”

3. Give a shout out to your **local library**! Libraries have tons of ***summer reading programs***. Take a walking field trip the last weeks of school to the library and ask the Children’s Librarian to explain their summer reading program. They often include prizes and other incentives. Invite all parents to come on this field trip… the more chaperones the better… so they can learn about different summer events and activities at the library as well. Make sure all students have a ***library card****!*

4. Talk up **book clubs**! Help your students create a book club that will meet throughout the summer. Ask parents if they can help facilitate or start your own book club if you are around. Encourage students to choose a book together before summer starts and either ask families to buy the book or go to the library. Libraries often have multiple copies of books. Help students figure out where they will meet and recommend they include a snack or treat of some kind. Perhaps each member hosts once and provides snacks. Or encourage students to write a persuasive letter to a local pizza restaurant or ice-cream shop for food donations. Many local restaurants are happy to support literacy!

***Feel free to ask us for help with any of these ideas!***

Happy Summer,

Sacha and Liz