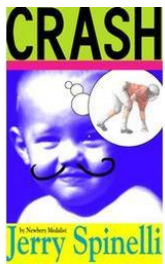


Dear 5th Grade Families,

Can you believe that summer is here already? While summer is a time to enjoy some fun in the sun with family and friends, it is also the perfect time to sit in the shade with a cold glass of lemonade and enjoy a good book. Research has consistently shown that students who read during the summer months perform better when they return to school in the fall (please review the article about the importance of summer reading on the back of this letter). Chatfield School's required summer reading program is a great way for students to practice utilizing reading comprehension skills that they have learned in the classroom.

Over the summer vacation, we are asking that each 5th grade student become familiar with Jerry Spinelli, a famous children's author. They will accomplish this by choosing to read either Loser or Crash, both written by Jerry Spinelli. In addition to reading the book, students will also be responsible for completing a comprehension activity that will be used in class when students return to school in September.



This assignment can be treated as an independent reading assignment or a shared reading experience between students and their parents. Chatfield School has acquired multiple copies of these books that are available to be checked out from the library. The comprehension activity sheet will also be available in the office, or on Chatfield School's website at www.chatfieldschool.org (follow the link to Mrs. Lange's classroom page).

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please do not hesitate to send Mrs. Lange or Ms. Hunter an e-mail at mlange@chatfieldschool.org or khunter@chatfieldschool.org. Thank you for your support at home. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Lange and Ms. Hunter

The Importance of Summer Reading

By: Jim Cornish

Educators consider summer reading very important in developing life-long reading habits, in maintaining literacy skills and in promoting reading for pleasure. Studies have repeatedly shown that children who continue to read during the summer months perform better when school resumes in the fall. But, when summer vacation starts, many children want to put away their books. They want to be outside, riding bikes, playing softball, or cooling-off in the neighborhood pool. Committing them to reading, even just a little each day, is a struggle especially when outdoor activities and the modern distractions of television, video games, and the Internet may seem more exciting.

Research has also shown that when parents are actively involved in learning at home, their children become more successful in and out of school. When it comes to helping with homework, most parents can hold their own. But, when it comes to reading, they need help. Parents want to know how to select books that interest children and how to create an atmosphere that encourages reading. Today, that help takes many forms; reading lists provided by teachers, summer reading programs sponsored by school and local libraries and educational Web sites that explain the reading process and provide tips on selecting books and advice on how to organize reading activities both parents and children will enjoy.

***Source: Jim Cornish, *Classroom Connect*, May 2003.**

