



READING UNDER THE STARS

WELCOME TO THE SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!



Dear Parent,

Did you know that when kids don't read over the summer they are likely to fall behind when they head back to school? These learning losses are often called the "Summer Slide," and our school has made it a priority to keep our students' skills sharp by encouraging them to read all summer long.

Our class has signed up to participate in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, a free online reading program that invites children to log their reading minutes to help set a new world record for summer reading. The goal this year for schools around the world is to break last year's reading world record of 176,438,473 minutes! With your help, we can do it.

I'm excited to share that the theme of this year's program is Reading Under the Stars; as kids log their reading minutes, they will unlock star constellations and learn interesting facts about them. Plus, throughout the summer, kids will earn digital rewards and learn about great new books to read. You'll also find free articles, activity sheets, and book lists for parents on the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge website.

The fun begins on May 5, 2014, and ends on September 5, 2014! The school that logs the most minutes will win a visit from a bestselling children's book author and will be featured in *The 2015 Scholastic Book of World Records*.

I invite you to learn more about the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge at www.scholastic.com/summer. If your child forgot his or her summer reading username, please contact me directly or contact Scholastic at 1-800-SCHOLASTIC.

Have a wonderful summer!



READING UNDER THE STARS REMINDER: KEEP KIDS READING ALL SUMMER LONG!



Dear Parent,

I hope you are enjoying your summer with your family and that you are keeping reading a top priority. The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge is underway, and our school is doing well so far! This is a friendly reminder to keep encouraging your child to read and log his or her minutes at www.scholastic.com/summer. If our school logs the most minutes of any participating school, we'll win a visit from a bestselling children's book author!

Here are a few ideas to help you and your child keep the reading momentum going all summer:

- 1) Read under the stars:** Set up a camp outside in your backyard and read under the stars (literally!). Bring a flashlight, snacks and a sleeping bag. This can be an activity for the whole family or for a sleepover party with other kids from the neighborhood.
- 2) Bring a book to life:** Find a great book to read and then turn it into a play, a song, an art project, or a baking experiment! For example: Read *Pinkalicious* then bake pink cupcakes, or read *We're Going on Bear Hunt*, and play hide-and-seek with your teddy bear. Reading a book can inspire so many fun games, activities, and recipes.
- 3) Visit your library:** The library is a great place to discover new and exciting books to read. Let your child choose a topic that interests him or her, and challenge him or her to find five books on that topic. There's nothing like a fun scavenger hunt for books!
- 4) Use an app:** Encourage kids to establish a reading routine by tracking the time they spend reading every day. The free Scholastic Reading Timer App is a great tool for doing exactly that—kids can set a stopwatch and upload their minutes to count towards the Summer Reading Challenge.

As you may know, kids are more likely to finish a book they pick out themselves, so visit a library, bookstore, or your own bookshelves, and let your child choose a book to read.

You can find more tips and ideas to motivate your kids to read in the parent section of the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge website (www.scholastic.com/summer). If your child forgot his or her summer reading username, please contact me directly or contact Scholastic at 1-800-SCHOLASTIC.

Happy Summer Reading!



READING UNDER THE STARS CHECKING IN: WE'RE HALF WAY THERE!



Dear Parent,

We are halfway through the summer, and you are doing a terrific job motivating your child to read! This is a friendly reminder to keep encouraging your child to read every single day, even if it's only for a few minutes. There are so many other summertime distractions that can often take the place of reading, but it's important to stick with a reading routine.

For every minute your child reads, he or she is strengthening his or her reading skills (and contributing to a new world record for summer reading!). Our school is committed to making sure all of our students come back to school prepared, and reading every day can truly make a difference.

If you're looking for new books for your kids to read, check out Scholastic's age-appropriate summer reading lists at www.scholastic.com/summer. You'll find the best nonfiction, series books, and more. If your child forgot his or her summer reading username, please contact me directly or contact Scholastic at 1-800-SCHOLASTIC.

Have a great rest of the summer!



READING UNDER THE STARS GET READY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!



Dear Parent,

I hope you had a wonderful summer, and that you and your child had fun participating in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge. I want to congratulate all the families from our class for their commitment to reading over the course of the past few months. Together with thousands of children and their families from around the world, you helped set a new world record for summer reading. We should all feel extremely proud of our class participation.

If you haven't already done so, please have your child print out his or her minutes from their user profile, which can be found on the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge website at **www.scholastic.com/summer**. Please have them bring it to school so we can share and celebrate their summer reading success! If your child forgot his or her summer reading username, please contact me directly or contact Scholastic at 1-800-SCHOLASTIC.

Thank you for being a great reading partner for your child this summer. The time and effort you put in will make for a wonderful school year ahead.

Thanks again!