

SUMMER TIPS - JUNE 2018

ROBERTS RACCOONS

ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

889 CROTON ROAD, WAYNE, PA 19087



LEARNING SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT

Learning does not have to end just because summer is here...

Here are some activities to prevent summer learning loss.

1. Go to the library—check for special events and find fun books that interest your child to read together.
2. Visit local museums and Universities—Science, art, history, whatever interests your child. Follow up your visit with a book, science experiment, writing project or art activity to further enhance the topic of your visit.
3. Talk about books—Ask questions about the book(s) your child is reading or while you are reading to him/her.
4. Make math a part of your day—math activities can be done at the grocery store (estimating, adding, weighing), while baking or cooking together or even math fact practice can be done during long car rides, count items at the beach, have a lemonade stand to practice counting money and making change.
5. Stay physically active—Exercise helps boost kids' learning. You can foster a healthy mind and a healthy body.
6. Writing—send postcards from vacation, make a scrapbook of pictures and write captions, journal about your day, practice handwriting with sidewalk chalk or by writing in the sand at the beach.
7. Nature walks—go on scavenger hunts, observe animals/plants.



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IN KINDERGARTEN:

To encourage your child entering first grade to continue to write during the summer, try some of these suggestions:

1. Always have paper, pencils, and drawing implements such as: crayons, markers or colored pencils available.
2. Put some paper on a clipboard so your child can walk around the house (or office) and copy words from print.
3. Clipboards and paper are also fun tools for taking surveys. Have your child come up with a question and write it on the top of a piece of paper and attach it to a clipboard. Then have your child survey family members or friends using tally marks or by filling in a graph using ideas you generated together.
4. If you go to work, leave your child a special note asking a question he/she can answer in a note back to you. You may even want to allow your child to purchase or decorate a special notebook for corresponding back and forth with one another.
5. If planning a picnic or special outing, have your child write a list of things that need to be taken with you when you go out.
6. If going on a trip, have your child write postcards to Grandma or some other relative, teacher, or friend.
7. If going to the grocery store, let your child write a list and be responsible for getting those items.
8. Most importantly, in order to support your child's love of writing, remind him/her that it's okay to use a combination of sight words and "invented spelling."

Mrs. Kilian and Mrs. Gambone's classes

On May 29th the Multiple Disabilities Classroom and Autistic Support Classroom went on a trip to the Elmwood zoo. They got to see lots of animals such as giraffes, jaguars, frogs, prairie dogs, foxes, birds, monkeys, and bats. Besides watching the animals, the students enjoyed playing instruments at the percussion center, navigating the big playground, eating lunch with their peers, and riding on the carousel.



On Tuesday June 5th, the Multiple Disabilities Classroom and Autistic Support Classroom will be joining the Robert's third grade class to participate in fun field day activities. Third grade students did a great job adapting materials and modifying materials for the activities so that all students can equally participate.

IN FIRST GRADE:

Hello Almost Second Grade Parents,

Here our summer tips to keep your child on track for second grade!



- Have your child read a book at their level daily. Sign up for the Upper Merion Township Summer Reading Program and your child can earn a medal!
- Choose a great chapter book to read aloud to your child and have a “book talk” with your child after each chapter.
- Have your child keep a summer journal and write in it a few times a week. Make sure they have proper spacing, capitals, punctuation, and correct penmanship!
- To practice their math skills, children can go on firstinmath.com for fact fluency.
- Your children can also complete any blank pages in their math journals that we were unable to finish during the school year.

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Love,
First Grade Teachers

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

First and second grades ended the year with a lesson about good sportsmanship and teamwork. Kidshealth.org defines sportsmanship as playing fair, following the rules of the game, respecting the judgment of referees and officials and treating opponents with respect.

Parents can continue to help promote good sportsmanship by:



- Encouraging fun, learning and teamwork as the most important parts of playing games and sports.
- Being a model of controlling emotions and treating all players/coaches/parents with respect.
- Talking about how good sportsmanship was shown and using specific events from the game. (Ex - “I know you hoped to make that basket and another team member bumped into you. I’m really proud that you controlled your feelings and showed him respect when he helped you up.”)
- Having consequences if your child shows poor sportsmanship.

ESL NEWS



Take Advantage of Our Township Library This Summer

Reading a variety of books is one of the most effective ways to increase vocabulary and introduce your child to new concepts.

Visiting museums is another exceptional experience for you and your child to enjoy and learn together.

Our township library is one of the most important resources in our community, and it is free for everyone. Of course, there are books, audio books, and books with CDs to borrow. But did you know that you can also borrow museum memberships? Our township library allows you to check out memberships for many of the museums in the Philadelphia area. This gives your family free admission. Here is a list of just some of the memberships you can borrow:

- American Helicopter Museum family membership, West Chester, PA
- Battleship New Jersey, Camden, NJ
- Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia,
- National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, Pa.
- National Liberty Museum, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, Pa

To learn more, visit our library at 175 W Valley Forge Rd, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

And as always, remember to maintain your child's first language.
Have a great summer!

ART

Art Ideas for the Summer

- Visit a museum. Check out the Philadelphia Museum of Art's web site for their pay-what-you-like days and their Summer Arts Splash events.
- Draw, draw, draw.
- Take a nature walk.
- Look, look, look.
- Check out free craft mini-lessons at stores like Michael's.
- The public library has books about artists as well as how-to books.
- Teach yourself to be a cartoonist.
- Use what's in the recycling bin at home to build a sculpture.
- Draw your shoe.
- Draw your car.
- Draw your dog.
- Draw yourself.
- Draw life on an underwater planet.
- Pay attention.
- Did I mention you should keep drawing?

LITERACY CORNER

Summer reading loss is well researched and documented. Daily reading practice is essential to maintain skills because it is not uncommon to have children lose months of instructional gains over the summer simply because they are out of practice. Please help support your child by making reading a daily habit over the summer. Children should be encouraged to read everyday. It is helpful to have a routine for this to help parents avoid a struggle if there is any resistance. Parents are also encouraged to read to their children as part of this routine to provide a model for reading while exposing children to words and concepts. Talk with your children about the books they are reading to support their comprehension and language skills.



IN SECOND GRADE:

Tips for Parents of Second Graders (Future Third Graders):

Tip #1: Make learning fun! You definitely don't want summer practice to become a battle between you and your child. Keep things fun and light by using games, technology, and educational day trips to engage your child.

Tip #2: Use what's free and close by. The library is your best friend! Visit it every week or every two weeks so your child can check out new reading material. Many libraries have summer reading programs with incentives (prizes!). You and your child can also use the library computers to access the links I've included in this list. Use the Internet to search for other summer activities in your area.

Local museums, planetariums, and even hardware stores may offer fun (and sometimes free) activities for children, especially during the summer.

Tip #3: Motivate your child with technology! Check out some local schoolteacher web pages, they usually have nice sites to visit.

Tip #4: Use apps! Many families have smartphones, iPads, or other tablets. Turn playtime into learning time by downloading educational apps.

Tip #5: Read, read, and read some more! Kids' reading skills can easily decline over the summer without practice. Look for authors or series that your child particularly enjoys.

A few series books to investigate: [Judy Moody](#), [Magic Tree House](#), [Jigsaw Jones](#), [Bailey School Kids](#), and [Encyclopedia Brown](#)

Tip #6: Keep practicing those math facts! In third grade, your child will be doing more complex multiplication and division. Knowing addition and subtraction facts by heart is key to your child's success with higher-level math.

Tip #7: Cook up something in the kitchen! Choose a simple recipe and have your child take charge (with your supervision, of course!). Reading comprehension is so important at this age, so have your child read the directions and then try to explain them to you. Have your child do the measuring, too,

and help your child learn how to double a recipe or cut it in half.

Tip #8: Bring out the scientist in your child! Here are a few ideas:

– Help your child record and track the weather from day to day, using TV reports or the Internet. Discuss temperature, humidity, wind speed, precipitation, etc. Have your child predict what the weather will be like the following day

– Have your child help you grow a vegetable garden. Experiment with sun exposure, amount of water, fertilizer, etc. to see what makes the best conditions for growing plants. Track the plants' heights from week to week.

– Visit a local nature center. Forest preserves, botanical gardens, and park districts also often have nature programs designed for kids.

Tip #9: Take out the camera! Kids love working with pictures of themselves! Here are a few writing activities that you can do with photos:

– Have your child use toys, action figures, blocks, dolls, etc. to take a series of photos. After taking a vacation or special trip, print out photos (1 per page). Have your child write captions for the photos and staple them together to create a memory book. Take photos of your child playing outside, swimming in the pool, and doing other fun summer activities. Print them out for your child and have your child write a letter to a family member, friend, or teacher about the fun things they are doing over the summer.

Tip #10: Last but not least...don't forget to take time to relax! Summer camps, vacations, sports games, and summer homework are great, but don't forget to leave your child some "down time." When your child has free time, they will have the opportunity to use their imagination, be creative, and soon they will get to know themselves better.



A NOTE FROM THE HEALTH SUITE

Up to Date Vaccinations for a Healthy School Year

Your child should receive all recommended vaccinations unless there is a health condition that prevents her or him from being vaccinated.

Current vaccinations are extremely important to:

- Keep children healthy, in school, and ready to learn.
- Avoid serious disease complications.
- Protect family and community members who can't be vaccinated and are vulnerable to infectious diseases.



Vaccine Safety

Vaccines used in the United States are very safe. But the impacts of NOT being vaccinated can be very serious. Many serious diseases still circulate in the U.S., including whooping cough, chickenpox, measles, (much more common in school-aged children), flu, and others. Measles, (much more common in school aged children (most common in under 5 year olds), flu, and others). They can cause severe and even life threatening side effects. There is no way to predict if a child will get a mild or serious case - or suffer permanent health impacts.

The World Health Organization offers a fact sheet on myths and facts of vaccine safety at <http://www.who.int/features/qa/84/en/>.

A Back-to-School Health Checklist:

Help your child get ready for a healthy and successful school year:

- Schedule a school physical or annual checkup.
- Make sure vaccinations are up to date, and get a copy of your child's vaccination record.
- Update emergency contact information for your school and keep this current with the school.
- Share important health and medication information with the school nurse and your child's teacher(s).
- Make sure your primary care provider completes a management plan for any serious conditions; share it with the school, along with authorization forms for your child and/or school staff to administer medications.
- Help your child synchronize his/her sleep cycle with the school day several weeks before school begins.
- Choose backpacks that are lightweight, include wide padded shoulder straps and a waist belt, and adjust easily. Consider a rolling backpack for heavy books.

LIBRARY

Check out the Suggested Summer Reading Lists on the [Roberts Library WebPage!](#)



Students Going Into 4th Grade Suggested Reading

As you read, encourage your child to ask questions, make predictions, and relate the story to his/her own life. Remember to visit your local public library and to participate in their wonderful summer reading program!

Here are some summer reading suggestions:

Cleary, Beverly. **The Mouse and the Motorcycle.**

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking.**

Cole, Henry. **A Nest for Celeste.**

DiCamillo, Kate. **Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures.**

Edgers, Geoff. **Who Is Stan Lee?**

Huey, Lois Miner. **Ick! Yuck! Eew! Our Gross American History.**

Jenkins, Steve. **Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World.**

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. **A Taste of Freedom: Gandhi and the Great Salt March.**

McCarthy, Meghan **Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum.**

Polacco, Patricia. **Tucky Jo and Little Heart.**

Silverstein, Shel. **A Light in the Attic.**

Clements, Andrew. **Frindle.**

Lin, Grace. **The Year of the Dog.**

Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library.**

MacLachlan, Patricia. **The Truth of Me: About a Boy, His Grandmother, and a Very Good Dog**

Ricrdan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief.**

Sachar, Louis. **Sideways Stories from Wayside School.**

Yolen, Jane. **Animal Stories: Heartwarming True Tales from the Animal Kingdom.**



IN FOURTH GRADE:

Fantastic Fourth Grade Finale

Our fourth graders will be moving on to the Middle School next year. We will miss them here at Roberts, but we wish them the best of luck! It has been an incredible year of fun and learning! We are so proud of them!

Here are some summer tips:

- Create a summer journal and record what you did in it
- Read, read, read
- Get involved with the Upper Merion Library activities
- Have a relaxing and restful summer

Recommended Educational Websites:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1211/> (garden activities)

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/resources-prevent-summer-slide-matt-davis>

<http://www.parents.com/fun/entertainment/gadgets/best-educational-apps-for-kids/>



Enjoy the summer,

Mr. Barlow, Mrs. Cedrone, Mrs. Melcher and Mrs. Waldron



MUSIC NOTES



All 4th grade string students throughout the district have been given a packet of music to look through over the summer. Your child should continue to practice over the summer months and be familiar with the music in the packet. At the start of 5th grade, he/she will be able to play music with new classmates and create something beautiful. What a great way to start the middle school experience!