

June 2021

Dear Incoming First Grade Families,

While your exciting year in kindergarten has come to a close, I wanted to let you know how much I am looking forward to working with you and your first grader next year! I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you and encourage you to spend some time this summer reinforcing the skills your child learned in kindergarten. It is incredibly important to read with your child every day. To ensure your child is understanding the daily reading, ask questions as you read together (Who is in the story? What happened in this story? What do you think will happen next?). To reinforce phonemic awareness, play phonics games such as: If I change the "b" in "bat" to "m," what word do I get? Mat! Good! Now what if I change the "t" to "d"? Mad! You can also make up nonsense words and ask your child to spell the word phonemically. These activities are wonderful ways to enjoy literature and strengthen initial reading skills.

In addition, this summer BSS will participate in a "one book, one school" summer read. Together we will read the book "El Deafo" by Cece Bell. It is a graphic novel memoir about a girl who loses her hearing at a young age and the challenges that she faces because of this hearing loss. This could be a story to read aloud to your child or read it together!

Math can be reviewed with counting (by 1's, 5's, and 10's), adding and subtracting within 10, looking for patterns, and matching shapes. Card games using traditional cards, flash cards, UNO, or Blink can be fun ways to practice these skills! Connecting the dots activities and family board games are also a great way to review number sequence. Additionally, placing a calendar and an analog clock in a prominent place in your kitchen or your child's bedroom is also a good way for your child to become familiar with calendars and analog clocks.

Of course, the primary objective of all these suggestions is to have fun as you practice and review, keeping the necessary skills sharp. We hope you and your family have a wonderful summer filled with rest and happy times together!

God Bless,

Victoria Phillips