

Dear Grade 5 Parents,

After a long year of hard work, we know that your child is ready for a well-deserved rest; however, as the summer wanes, and your child starts to say "I'm bored", here are three things that we would suggest to ensure that they have super start to next year.

1. Get your child to **organize the files on his/her laptop**. He/she can put all work from this year into a folder called 2015-16. Then he/she can create new folders for each subject for next year so they will be all ready to go in September. Students always seem to struggle with knowing all the features of their computer as well, so it is wise for them to spend some time playing around with the different programs. For example, you could **encourage your child to make some movies this summer** that chronicle your adventures.

2. **Insist that they read at least one novel**. It doesn't really matter what they are reading, as long as they are doing it. Reading is great for the imagination, and it also helps to keep their thoughts stimulated. You could even listen to a book on CD as a family if you will be doing a lot of driving this summer. This would allow you to discuss the book with your child and ask questions such as:

- a) Why do you think that character did that? What would you have done?
- b) Does this remind of you of any movies we have seen?
- c) What do you think the author was hoping we would learn from that?

We have attached a list of some books that we recommend, so he/she might find this helpful if selecting a book is challenge.

3. Lastly, **ask your child to write a story, poem, newspaper article or anything they would like to write**. When they are done, read their work out loud to them exactly as it is written. This helps the students to hear spelling mistakes, missed punctuation, and things that don't make sense. Of course, he/she won't catch them all, but you can certainly point out obvious things that they might not be seeing. We have also attached **a document with a few contests for this summer**, so if your child comes up with something interesting he/she might consider entering it one of them.

We hope that you find this helpful. We look forward to working with your children next year.

Sincerely,
The English Department

Sharon Neibert
Instructional Leader for Middle School English

Suggested Reading for Grade 5 going into Grade 6

If you are new student coming into the school, you should read:

Wonder by RJ Palacio (All of the grade five students read this as a novel study.)

Students who were at HSC this year should consider any of the following:

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel (This is a series – ***Sunwing*** and ***Firewing*** are the next books.) It is available as an audiobook too.

The Owl Keeper by Christine Brodien-Jones

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (This is the first book in the series. ***Parvana's Journey*** and ***Mud City*** are the next ones.)

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins (first book in the series)

Daniel's Story by Carol Matas

The Secret Garden by Frances Burnett

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Quest Begins by Erin Hunter (first book of the series - The Seekers)

Magyk by Angie Sage (a longer book but with larger text – great for Harry Potter lovers)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

I am the Ice Worm by MaryAnn Easley (kind of a girls' version of *Hatchet*)

Plain Kate by Erin Bow

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (first book in the Percy Jackson Series)

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry

Run by Eric Walters

SOME UPCOMING CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

Polar Expressions Summer Contests

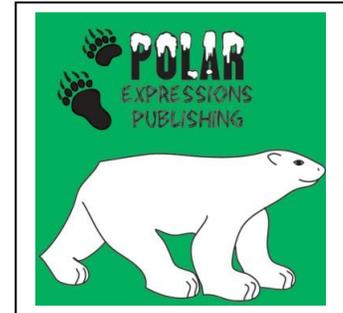
<http://www.polarexpressions.ca/SummerContests.html>

Age: 10 -15 years old

Short story: 750 words or less. Fanfiction and essays are not permitted. Characters must be of your own creation. Stories should be fiction or fictionalized (change the names of real characters)!

Poem: 48 lines or less

Deadline: July 31, 2016



Hamilton Public Library's Power of the Pen Contest:

<http://teens.hpl.ca/articles/power-pen-creative-writing-contest>

Age: 12-18 years old

Short story: should not exceed 2500 words

Poem: No length limit

Deadline: September 3, 2016



HPL Tween Writing Contest:

<http://www.tellingtales.org/contests/> Scroll to the bottom of the page for details.

Age: 10 -12 years old

Short story: should not exceed 1000 words

Submit an original short story based on this brief excerpt from *Mission Mumbai* by Mahtab Narsimhan:

"We got dressed at warp speed for a quick getaway, but still couldn't escape the head-splitting barrage of instructions from Rohit's mom. My ears were ringing as we fled downstairs..."

Deadline: September 3, 2016

