

Dear Grade 7 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. He/she could try to structure this as "How I spent my summer." This would allow him/her to write and have fun creating at the same time. If your child chose 3 -5 things that were real highlights, described them with audio, and included photos and video, it would give him/her a reason to explore the device, while making a great keepsake. He/she could then do a final summary at the end saying what he/she learned through his/her experiences. Students get two opportunities to use movie software in Grade 7, so having this practice would be really helpful.

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.

Sincerely,  
The English Department

Sharon Neibert  
Instructional Leader for Middle School English

## Summer Reading for Grade 6 going into Grade 7

Students who are new to the school should read:

***City of Ember*** by Jeanne DePrau or ***Dark Life*** by Kat Falls (These are the books that we used for our Literature Circles this year.)

***Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Other suggested novels that might interest you:

***Touching Spirit Bear*** by Ben Mikaelson

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

***Half Brother*** by Kenneth Oppel

***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan (first book of the Percy Jackson series)

***The Red Pyramid*** by Rick Riordan (first book of the Kane Family Chronicles series)

***Alexandria of Africa*** by Eric Walters

***End of Days*** by Eric Walters

***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.)

***No Safety in Numbers*** – Dayna Lorentz

***Divergent*** by Veronica Ross (More mature content, though. If you have already read ***The Hunger Games***, then you will be okay with this.)

***Rip Tide*** by Kat Falls (sequel to ***Dark Life***)

***Shooting Kabul*** by N. H. Senzai

***The Golden Compass*** by Philip Pullman (a longer book for people who love to read)

***Ranger's Apprentice Series*** by John Flanagan

***Between Heaven and Earth*** by Eric Walters

***Counting Back from Nine*** by Valerie Sherrard

***Devil's Pass*** by Sigmund Brouwer

***Jump Cut*** by Ted Staunton

***Loki's Wolves: The Blackwell Pages*** by K.L. Armstrong & M.A. Marr

***My Name is Parvana*** by Deborah Ellis

***Oak Island Revenge*** by Cynthia d'Entremont

***Small Medium at Large*** by Joanne Levy (for kids who like books with humour)

***The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*** by Susin Nielsen

## SOME UPCOMING CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

### Polar Expressions Summer Contests

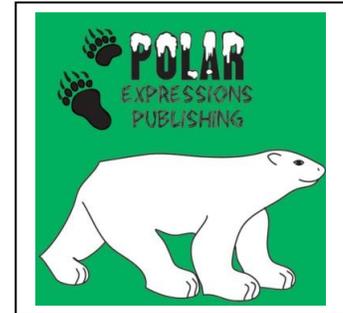
<http://www.polarexpressions.ca/SummerContests.html>

**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

