

Dear Grade 8 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** about something that interests them or experience that he/she had. This would give him/her a reason to strengthen their understanding of how the software works, while having fun at the same time.

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. It increases vocabulary and allows the students observe good writing to model their own work after.

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, 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

Suggested Reading for Grade 7 going into Grade 8

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

Egghead by Caroline Pignat

The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis

Other suggested novels that might interest you:

Wonder by RJ Palacio

Matched by Ally Kondie (first in a series – ***Crossed*** is the next one.)

Shooting Kabul by N. H. Senzai

Running Wild, Born to Run, War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (first in a series)

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (first in the series – *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay* are the next ones.)

The Forbidden Game by L.J. Smith (More mature content, though. If you have already read *The Hunger Games*, then you will be okay with this.)

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

The Future of Us – by Jay Asher & Carolyn Mackler

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass

The Raft by S. A. Bodeen

Shaken by Eric Walters

Safe as Houses by Eric Walters

Trapped by Michael Northrop

Starters by Lissa Price (More mature content. There is a sequel called *Enders*.)

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 Armstong & 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 students who like books with humour)

The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen by Susin Nielsen

SOME UPCOMING CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

Polar Expressions Summer Contests

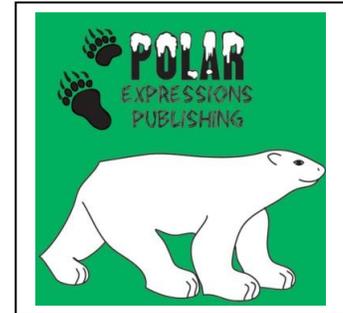
<http://www.polarexpressions.ca/SummerContests.html>

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

