

May 29, 2019

Parents and Students,

Below is a curated list of book recommendations for Rising Second Grade students, in case you are looking for a place to start with book selection. Please keep in mind these specific titles are ONLY suggestions and are NOT required. Our Lower School students are at liberty to choose the titles that interest them.

- **Ellray Jakes** by Sally Warner. EllRay, a third grader with a penchant for getting into trouble, deals with pressure from parents and peers alike in this comical and true-to-life series.
- **Giraffe Problems** by Jory John. From the team behind the spot-on *Penguin Problems* comes this story about being proud of your individual strengths and using them to help others. Giraffe hates his neck because it's "too necky," but a new friend helps shift his perspective.
- **Sarabella's Thinking Cap** by Judy Schachner. From the popular author of *Skippyjon Jones* comes this tale of Sarabella, a girl with her head in the clouds. A lovely story for daydreamers who don't necessarily fit the standard educational mold.
- **A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars** by Seth Fishman This story tackles the mind-boggling concept of huge numbers. A wonderful book for science, math, or read-aloud.

- **Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shatterly. This book tells the story of four mathematicians who played a critical role in NASA's early space launches

- **Mac B., Kid Spy Series** by Mac Barnett. Mac Barnett tells his childhood story—as a spy for the Queen of England. It's a spoof, of course, but there are real themes here, too. This series would be a great fit for those advanced but reluctant readers, or as a fun read aloud (especially if you're a kid of the 80s and treasured your Gameboy as much as the author).

Rising 2nd Graders Summer Reading Suggestions

The school year has ended and it is my greatest wish, for your family, that the summer be filled with lots of fun and the time to make incredible memories. I hope, as well, that your child continues to immerse themselves in reading and writing! There are countless opportunities to continue learning while enjoying the summer break. I have listed a few but am certain you will have a few thoughts of your own:)

1. You will continue to have access to the Superkids Reading Program website through the summer. It's a great source of stories and games.
2. Journal writing is an excellent way to document activities, create stories, record wonderings while further building writing skills.
3. Scrabble, word searches, crossword puzzles, are all great activities to build vocabulary and reinforce spelling.
4. Kids cook night! Let your child research and plan a 'dish' and create it. Incorporates both reading and math...my daughters LOVED this!!!
5. Our community is rich with activities to broaden understanding and peak curiosities. The Marine Science Museum, the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, the Norfolk Zoo, the Brock Center, the Portsmouth Children's Museum, Colonial Williamsburg are just a few of the many places where children can explore and be inspired to develop a desire to 'dig deeper' and 'learn more'.

The very best suggestion I can give you is to model a love of reading and writing for your children. Children 'catch' what they see....make reading and writing a family priority. Have a wonderful summer:) Susan Fisher



Parents and Students,

Summer is upon us and it is a time for relaxing and enjoying the freedom of a less structured day. We hope our students enjoy the warm weather this summer, and we also hope that our students are able to utilize the reading skills they have up this school year.

Summer reading is incredibly important, so that our students don't experience that dreaded "summer slide" – a decline in their reading ability. Studies show that students who are not reading much, or at all, during the summer months experience a decline in their reading abilities. This effect becomes increasingly pronounced as students get older and advance in grade level.

We are encouraging our lower school students to practice their reading for a minimum of 20 minutes per day during the summer months. This can be independent reading, reading aloud with a family member, or reading with other children and/or siblings. Reading independently plays an important role in skill development as well as group reading and group discussion.

Below is a list of local Summer Reading Program links that may be helpful and fun for the students to participate in. I can't wait to see what books the children have chosen to read over the summer and the interests that have been sparked by them!

Summer Reading Programs

- Virginia Beach Public Library (June 10th-August 10th)
<https://vbpl.beanstack.org>
- Norfolk Public Library
<https://www.norfolkpubliclibrary.org>
- Chesapeake Summer Reading Program (July 1st- Aug 11th)
<https://chesapeake.beanstack.org>
- Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Program (May - September)
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/h/summer-reading>
- Books-a-Million Summer Reading Program (mid-May - Summer)
<https://www.booksamillion.com/summeradventure>

Thank you and have a great summer!

Courtney Grew

VBFS Librarian

CourtneyG@vbfschool.org