



**The Northstar**

**Ross Elementary**

**~National School of Character**

It is hard to believe that we are near the end of the school year! Please review all events planned as we come down the final stretch and note the change of time for our upcoming *Variety Show*. In order to have a combined kindergarten through 5th grade performance, we needed to widen the time frame for the Variety Show!

Our PTO is excited this year to bring families together on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 for a picnic! Families are asked to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy time as a community on the playground. An ice-cream truck will be on the lot and everyone will receive a complementary treat!

The last day of school is Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and the students will be dismissed at 1:05 pm. Families are always invited to our traditional Teacher No Talent Show on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in our school gym. This is also the time we honor and celebrate our student leadership groups such as Character Council and Ross Ambassadors. Although we are ending school at 1:05 on the 25th, our students will have the opportunity to eat lunch. **Please send your child with a sack lunch and a drink on the 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Finally, our parking lot will be reconstructed over the summer which will mean the building will be closed until we return in August. Parents and families will receive emails and mailings throughout the summer with back to school dates and important updates as we open up the new school year. Thank you for your continued support and valued partnership between home and school! *Always, Dr. Lisa Luna*

### **End of the Year Dates**

- 5/11/ Book Fair begins**
- 5/12 PTO Family Fun Night 5:30-7:30**  
**Spelling Bee Finals 9:15 am**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade STL Zoo 9:15-2pm**
- 5/16 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Wax Museum 2:30-3:30 pm**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip 10:15-1pm**  
**North High Graduation (Queeny Park)**
- 5/18 Variety Show 9:30-10:30 and 2:30-3:30**
- 5/19 STEM 8:00 am**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Day**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Move Up Ceremony 2:30 pm**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Weldon Springs 9:15-1:45pm**  
**Book Fair Ends**
- 5/22 Yearbook distribution**
- 5/23 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Breakfast 8:10 am**
- 5/23 Do the Right Thing Cardinal Assembly**
- 5/24 Last Northstar Family**
- 5/25 Teacher Talent Show 9:45 am (gym)**
- 5/25 PTO at Menchie's ( right after school)**

**5//25 Last Day of School**  
**Dismissal is at 1:05**

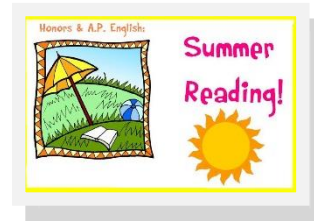
**\*\*\*Report cards will be available to families electronically on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**\*\*\* Grade level supply lists will be available on our Ross website by May 25<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

# Summer Reading Loss

Summer reading loss refers to the decline in a child's reading development that can occur during summer vacation times when children are away from the classroom and not participating in formal literacy programs (Allington & McGill-Franzen, 2003).

Researchers have uncovered evidence to suggest the impact of summer reading loss on students is significant. In order to prevent a loss in reading achievement, we advocate that students spend time over the summer reading.



## Why is summer reading so important?

- Children need to engage with books every day so they can maintain, and strengthen all the literacy skills they learned during the school year. Parents might consider comparing reading to exercising and tell their children that any time they read they are *“strengthening their reading muscles.”*
- The stakes for children who do not read over the summer are high. Research on this topic shows that students who do not read over the summer are most likely to suffer from summer reading loss and can fall far behind their peers.

## What can parents do to support their child?

If children read six books over the summer, they will likely avoid the summer reading loss.

Here are a few ideas for reaching and going beyond the six book goal:

1. Take books with you and your child everywhere you go; to the doctor's office, on picnics and on road trips.
2. Let your child choose the books he/she wants to read (*as long as they are age-appropriate and are written at just the right level of difficulty*).
3. Support the reading experiences by talking about the books and helping your child understand and interpret what they read.
4. Encourage your child to participate in a summer reading program.
5. If you are more comfortable reading to your child in a language other than English, by all means do so. What your child learns in his/her native language will help create a bridge to learning English.