

If you don't use it, you lose it!

Get involved this summer!



Award-Winning Summer Reading Program



Bring on Summer, Bring on Books!



www.rdcrs.ca/programs/rdcrs-reads



Send us photos of your child participating in RDCRS READS Summer Reading Program! Tweet or Instagram photos using the hashtag **#RDCRSREADS** or email photos to joinin@rdcrs.ca

Submitted photos may be added to a RDCRS READS photo album on the Division's Facebook page, website and could be used for next year's program.



RDCRS READS 2017

- 16 schools across the Division participated.
- Over 16,675 books went into the hands of elementary, middle and high school students.

This statement is true for children who do not read throughout the summer.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools has developed the award-winning RDCRS READS Summer Reading Program to suit all middle and elementary school students' needs. The program is designed to eliminate summer reading loss and foster a love of reading through continued access to books.

The main goals of the program are to promote reading growth by getting books into the hands of students, increase access to books to eliminate summer reading loss and to have school libraries open during the summer months.



St. Matthew Catholic School

Grade 1, 2 and 3 students can take out five books (three chapter and two picture) for the summer. Grade 4 to 7 students can take home two chapter books.

The Rocky Mountain House Public Library will present to students about their summer reading programs. Students will also be encouraged to sign up for a free membership. This partnership will help encourage students to develop a lifelong passion for reading.



Why is it important for students to read during the summer?

"If you don't use it, you lose it," proves true for children who spend a summer without books and reading. Without reading role models and someone to read to them, without printed material and without new experiences, reading skills grow rusty and waste away.

Benefits of summer reading:

- Students who read throughout the summer months have shown an increase in reading levels in the following school year.
- Reading throughout the summer enables a student to pick-up where they left off after school has ended.
- Continuous reading not only supports, but also builds on students reading and language skills.
- With a variety of books available, students are able to develop a love for reading.



Things to remember this summer:

- Make sure you (the adult role model) are seen reading daily. It works even better if you read at the same time as the child.
- For young children, looking at the pictures in books and turning pages qualifies as "reading." This is because we become picture-literate before becoming print-literate.
- Allow children to choose the books they wish to read to themselves.
- Don't take a vacation car trip without recorded or audio books on board. They count too!
- Set some time parameters, short at first and longer as children get older and read more.
- Newspapers and magazines, even comic books, should count toward reading time.



Adapted from Trelease, J. (2010). Summer Reading: Research shows the most damage to reading skills occurs outside school - during the summer months. But not for *all* kids.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. Proverbs 9:9