



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the last library newsletter for 2015/2016. Hard to believe the school year is almost at an end, roll on the summer hols! The thoughts of the hols might put fear and dread into some, with echoes of “Two whole months, what am I going to do with the kids?” never fear, for this month’s newsletter is dedicated to summer fun that will keep little minds and hands occupied, such as:

- 📧 **Parent’s Survival Guide:** How to entertain a brood of bored kids during the summer holidays.
- 📧 **Your Local Library’s Children’s Summer Reading Challenge.**
- 📧 Article: ‘Summer Learning Loss Statistics’
- 📧 Article: ‘15 Critical Facts Every Parent Should Know About Summer Learning Loss AND Should the School Year be Longer?’
- 📧 **Summer Learning 2016 :** Fun Interactive Educational Websites
- 📧 **Summer Reading Bucket List** For All The Family
- 📧 **Free Family Activities** in Meath for Summer 2016
- 📧 Family Fun: Festivals and Events in Ireland Summer 2016
- 📧 **Summer Boredom Busters:** Puzzle Pages
- 📧 Child-friendly **summer recipes**, such as, ‘Homemade Ice-cream in a Bag!!’
- 📧 Summer Reading **Book Recommendations**
- 📧 Local **Library Events** June 2016
- 📧 **Summer Movie Fun** – New Releases
- 📧 Cleo – The Summer Safety Ambassador
- 📧 **Back to School** – Preparing for September 2016



Deirdre

So with all this and much more to keep you and your little ones occupied over the next few months, all there’s left to say is, have a fantastic holiday, enjoy the sun (hopefully we’ll have some!), be sun smart and stay safe!

Parent's survival guide: How to entertain a brood of bored kids during the summer holidays



Do not despair. Yes, the summer holidays are here – and No, the schools will not re-open, no matter how hard you pound, rap or try to force the windows – so now what? Well, according to Nancy Darling, Phd., at Psychologytoday.com, here’s how to get through those summer months...

“I’m boooooored . . . “



Ah . . . the sounds of summer.

Adults often look with envy at the long stretches of leisure that

punctuate the lives of children. Kids look forward to summer vacation all winter long. So it’s really frustrating when parents' fantasies of leisurely bike rides, fishing trips, and reading in the hammock crash into the reality of kids gazing blankly at video screens, machine gunning imaginary terrorists, or whining that there’s nothing to do.



The goal here is to suggest some ways of shaping your kids’ summer to keep it fun, low-key and child

driven.

Summer is important. For years, sociologists and educational psychologists have known that the achievement gap that separates low from high income kids from the same school doesn’t occur during the school year. They happen during the summer.

The findings are startling. Many school districts test children in September when they return from holiday and again at the end of the school year. How much their scores change tells us what they’ve learned. In the late 1970’s, a clever educational sociologist took those data and looked at it differently. He decided to look at the change from June to September.

Findings were clear. Kids who differed in social class learned at just about the same rate while school was in session. However, every summer, children from lower socioeconomic status (SES) homes lost about four months of learning. In other words, if their reading level was at 4th class 10 months in June, they would come back in September reading at the 4th class 6 months level. Upper SES kids came back in September at the same level they had left or maybe a little higher. Because this happens every summer and over time, those lost months add up.

By the end of elementary school, the summer loss accounted for most of the performance difference between lower and upper SES kids. More recent research has replicated and extended these

findings. The richer language environments and more diverse activities available to high SES kids helped them maintain what they'd learned.

The following focuses on what kids seem to want most during the summer and parents seem to hate most: Screen time. How can you help your kids have a RELAXING and FUN summer, without letting their minds wither in the heat?

What's a parent to do?

SCREEN TIME - How can kids make the best of summer screen time?

Tip number one: Put on a timer.



Unless you're going to ban computers and video entirely, the most important strategy for managing children's screen time is

simply to make a plan and stick to it. Pick an amount of time and a time a day that's comfortable for you and keep screen time to those limits.

For example, don't allow computer games in the morning. Why? Simple. Because if a child gets up in the morning and has to find something else to do, they often get so involved with a friend or a book or a project that they don't get back to the computer. If they do, you know they've already done something else, and you fret less. In addition, early afternoon is often a hot, miserable time of day to be outside and running around in if the weather is miraculously hot! *There's a reason they invented the siesta!* If you're going to let the kids veg out, the afternoon is a better time to do it. Plus, if you

wind up going to the pool in the afternoon instead, so much the better!

Tip number two: Use screen time for fun and profit.



There is nothing wrong with playing video games or watching TV if you've helped children choose good content. What's good content?

First, I strongly recommend DVDs and DVD games over television. Why? Two reasons: content and process.

- Unless your children only watch public television, TV time is commercial time. Content analysis of the ads placed around children's programming suggest that it is heavily loaded towards high fat, sugary foods or towards movies and toys. In other words, even if the show is great, the ads will give your kids a wicked case of the '*I want*'. Even more problematic is the placement of advertisements for movies or television shows that are completely inappropriate for kids around shows you might be happy for them to watch. Using DVDs allows you to get just the show you want without the commercials.
- Another advantage of DVDs is that they END. Television never does. Research has shown that the longer you watch TV, the less likely you are to turn the television off when your program ends. In other words, watch one show and you might have a 75% chance of switching off and doing something else after the finale. Watch a second one, and that chance may go down to

50%. Although I have not seen research to support this notion, I would not be surprised if video games work the same way. In addition, unless you start your timer straight on the hour, when your timer runs out, your child may be in the middle of a show. Not a good way to start.



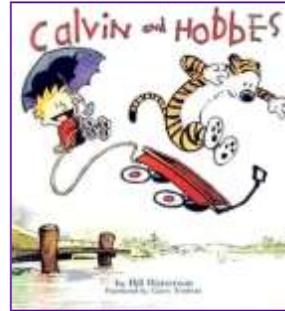
Second, use DVDs to learn something: They provide learning opportunities. Kids can learn Pokemon trivia on screen OR they could pick up facts about history, science, and literature. Local libraries have wonderful DVDs available for free that kids will love. The *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, *Reading Rainbow*, or *Eyewitness* DVD series all give children hours of entertainment and put a lot of useful trivia in the way of their roaming minds. Series like *Anne of Green Gables* or *Sarah Plain and Tall* or *Horatio Hornblower* are great entertainment and teach kids about history without a lecture in sight.



It doesn't have to say 'educational' to be 'educational'. I have written before about how kids pick up random

knowledge – inefficiently but with incredible persistence – through aimless play. For example, children can learn about all the Greek gods and legends from watching *Hercules* on TV. No one would label that educational television. *Little House on the Prairie*, *The Three Musketeers*, or old Disney comedies all provide cultural content. Children can also learn to recognise the scores from *Carmen* and *Das Rheingold* to *Bugs*

Bunny cartoons and Aesop's fables as well as *Rocky and Bullwinkle*.



Use DVDs as a bridge to something more. Having real books about mythology or the *Percy Jackson* series lying around next to the television wouldn't hurt

either. Even comic books. Children often move from beginning to fluent readers with long stretches of books such as *Calvin and Hobbes*. You can complement their interest by taking out related books or pulling together a craft or science project that a DVD may have piqued. If you search online, you may find educational websites with teaching materials, fun activities and books already suggested (see article following: *Summer Learning 2016: Fun Educational Websites* and *FREE Activities and Places to visit in Meath for Summer 2016*).

Tip Number 3: Use your Computer as a Toy

Children can use computers for more than playing games. Don't forget the activities that come with your computer – like a good Paint program. One of a child's favourite things to do is take a picture with a digital camera, put it in a paint program, and morph it in all the ways that photo editing can do. Default paint programs come with both Windows and Apple machines.



For example, children can make truly incredible animations by using a paint program to make a series of drawings. Then string them together to

make animations, including soundtracks. Windows MovieMaker, iMovie or Picasa are all free and have this capability. Microphones and sound editing programs are also part of many computer systems. It doesn't have to be fancy for children to have fun. If you own a webcam or have digital videos, movie software does fun effects too. What can your child think to do with them (supervised, of course)? Even word processors can be used creatively to make cards, newspapers, or write, illustrate and decorate stories.

Chose computer games that YOU like. Computer games aren't all violent and filled with monsters. If you look, you can find many that are creative and cooperative. Search parent sites for ratings, reviews, and recommendations. Games that focus on open-ended exploration or creature creation (e.g., Spore), historical or puzzle games (e.g., Oregon Trail, Myst), or the many, many simulation games (e.g., The Sims, Age of Mythology) can provide older kids with long periods of fun. Whatever games you choose, just make sure you are comfortable with the content – read the labels and online reviews.

Tip Number 4: Get physical



One of the big complaints child development specialists and health professionals have about a child's screen time is that

time spent watching isn't time spent moving. You can change that. How?

- **Take away their chair!** Don't make screen time too comfortable. Help your child move

unconsciously by changing his sitting, lying, or kneeling position regularly.

- **Sit on a ball!** Replace chairs with a large Pilates ball. Staying balanced on it keeps a child active even while wandering through the Legos universe.
- **Play games that make you move.** Recent reports have suggested that playing Wii games helps senior citizens maintain their balance and stay active. It works for children too. Games like *Dance Dance Revolution* or *Guitar Hero* or *Rock Band* force them to move more than just their mouse hand.



Tip Number 5: Make screen time their choice, not a battle

The saying goes that all things are good in moderation – even moderation. Videos and computers can provide kids with great resources. Let them choose from some of the best options

provide control do it you are



screen time can and give them over when they within limits comfortable with. Giving

them control over what they do in their free time helps children to understand that the limits you have set are based on prudential concerns, rather than your desire to thwart them and bore them.

BOREDOM - can teach kids to have a good time!

Boredom proneness and the ability to shape leisure

- One of my former colleagues, Linda Caldwell, has spent most of her career studying adolescent leisure and boredom proneness. In our work together we focused on how some kids were really good at figuring out what they liked to do, knew what they found boring, and could find ways to use their free time to make themselves feel good. Other kids weren't. One of many things I learned from Dr. Caldwell was the concept of *leisure education*.

Leisure education

Isn't leisure just hanging out and having a good time? And doesn't everyone know how to do that? Actually the answer is NO.

High quality leisure provides opportunities for relaxation and for *flow*. Flow is that wonderful psychological state where you are completely engaged in what you're doing, not self-conscious, and positive. You are *in the moment*. Flow usually occurs when you are doing something that is challenging (and therefore not boring), but that it's not so hard that you're stressed or scared. Being in social situations where you are laughing and telling stories and effortlessly engaging in back and forth banter can produce a state of flow.



As we grow up, we learn what kinds of things produce positive leisure and flow experiences *for us*. It's different for everyone, for example some children like arts and crafts, boating, drawing and

reading, while others like martial arts, playing an instrument, and sports. Other people lose themselves in video games or embroidery or writing. The point is that for each of us, some activities strike a real chord and others leave us cold.



Learning not to be bored takes several important developmental skills. Children need to . . .

- Be aware of their internal states so they know when they're having a good time and when they're bored
- Learn what they like to do. In other words, kids learn to understand what is producing those positive internal states – for example, is it basketball itself or is it the *social* situation of basketball that they're responding to?
- Learn to actively make situations happen so that they get more positive leisure and less boredom. In other words, once they recognise that they're bored they need to know that they can do something more fun and know what that fun thing might be.

Active leisure orientation: A challenge for our time

Oddly enough, one of the reasons that many children and teens have trouble with knowing what to do in the summer is that they haven't been bored enough.



When I was a kid, we were bored all the time. There were no extracurricular activities

for kids until junior high except for Scouts once a week or maybe 4H and Sunday School. Few moms worked, so we came home from school at 3:00 and just hung out. They hadn't invented Sesame Street yet and Bugs Bunny and Rocky & Bullwinkle were more or less all of kids' television unless it was Saturday morning. And there were 9 channels – and we lived near New York City. An hour north and you got four stations. In the mountains, there was fuzz.



What that meant is that our moms – who were busy cooking, cleaning, watching soap operas,

hanging out with their neighbours, and generally running a huge network of non-profit services (Scouts, Church, Red Cross, etc. etc.) would typically respond to our complaints that we had nothing to do by suggesting that our rooms could definitely use cleaning. We learned not to ask and figured something out.

Contrast this with the typical experience of children growing up today. Young kids are in daycare where they are either in social situations or – in higher quality care – engaged in a wide range of social and cognitive activities for most of the day (i.e., play, arts, and circle time). Then they graduate to school where they are kept in very structured activities most of the day. After school, they move into other structured settings – after school programs, soccer, violin lessons, etc. In other words, they are kept busy and safe in adult structured activities. At 13, many children graduate into extracurricular activities or – probably more problematically – go home and hang out.

These experiences might all be great. HOWEVER, from a developmental perspective, children have very little experience learning to find things to do FOR THEMSELVES. They have been PASSIVE. Adults shape their activities. When they get to the point where they are too old for that – or there just aren't adults to do it – the children are at a loss. They might know what they like to do – or what they don't - but they have little experience figuring out how to make good things happen.

Boredom is okay.

So why did I say boredom can be good? Adults don't like being bored. Kids are seldom happy when they say they are bored. A second thing that Dr. Caldwell taught me is a better appreciation of what kids mean when they say they are bored.

When adults say they're bored, they usually mean that some task that they have to do – sorting socks, writing a report – is tedious or repetitive. Caldwell suggests that this is not always what kids mean when they moan that they're bored. Sometimes – like when they're doing their homework – it may mean that.



But often, when kids say they're bored, they mean that they do not want to engage their emotions in the activity. For example, set dancing may be 'boring' not because skipping and swinging with friends in complicated patterns to bouncy music is tedious and repetitive, but because they think it looks silly and they don't WANT to have fun doing it.

Saying “I’m bored” may be a sign of rebellion – you can’t make me have fun doing that.

“I’m bored” may also signal that the child is motivated enough to overcome inertia and take a more active approach to shaping their own leisure.

Technically, it may signal a state of sub-optimal stimulation. They are not in a state of flow (balance of challenge and ability) because there isn’t enough challenge.

Boredom can be a great tool to start a good summer.

Why? If I’m really bored, even reading ‘that’ book I haven’t wanted to pick up may be the lesser of two evils. My brother, who teaches middle school Social Studies, swears that lots of his late blooming readers fell in love with the written word when they couldn’t think of anything else to do than pick up a

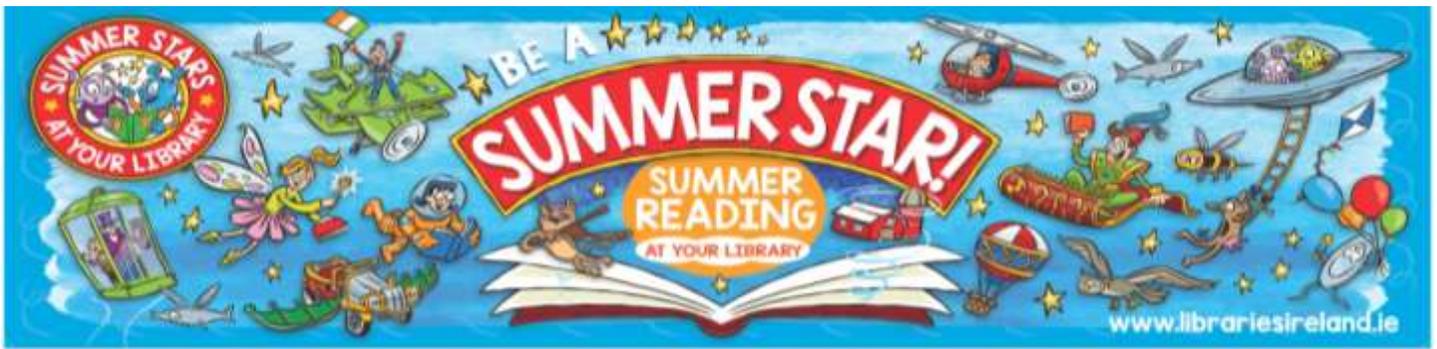
book. Calling a friend, going for a bike ride, pulling out old paints, or K’Nex or blocks may all be better than feeling really bored.

What kids need to make that boredom a positive experience is to:

- understand that they really are bored
- have a feeling of efficacy so that they know that **THEY CAN CHANGE IT** and stop being bored
- be able to generate other potential behaviours that are likely to produce a more positive psychological state

The challenge for parents is to help them make that bridge between recognising that they want to do something else (they don’t like how they’re feeling) and figuring out what they might like to do.





Library Summer Reading Challenge



Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays. The annual **Summer Reading Challenge** helps get three quarters of a million children into libraries to keep up their reading skills and confidence. *Because everything changes when we read.*

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to read six books during the long summer holiday.

There is a different theme each year. The theme for the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge is ***Be a Summer Star***. Children can read whatever they like - fact books, joke books, picture books, audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all school children and is designed for all reading abilities.

The idea of summer reading is simple, in June simply sign up at your local library for Summer Reading. You will be given a reading card. Each time you read a book you will get your reading card stamped, and there are great incentives along the way to encourage all who partake. At the end of the programme, all children who have participated will be invited to attend an awards event.

The National Library Service makes a selection of Summer Reading Challenge book collection titles available in accessible formats (Braille, Audio and Giant Print) for children who are visually impaired, or have visually impaired parents/carers. This material can also help children with learning disabilities and dyslexia.

Get involved:

- ✿ Head to your local library during the summer holidays and enroll. It's completely free and anybody can take part.
- ✿ Children can chat, get reading recommendations and enter competitions during the Summer Reading Challenge



Summer Learning Loss Statistics (And Tips To Promote Learning All Summer Long)



Between the end of one school year and the start of the next, as discussed above, every student risks summer learning loss. With the final bell right around the corner, this is a weighty topic on every parent and educator's mind.

So let's have a look at just how much knowledge children typically lose, and how you can prevent it with some quick tips for summer learning!

What activities are best for your summer learner?

Whether your child loves to read, play outside, or get techy, there are many fun but effective ways to promote learning over the break. Since the summer will be here before you know it, it's a great idea to start planning now what activities you'll use to avoid summer learning loss. The following quick tips can help!



Studies show that reading four to five books over the summer has a positive impact comparable to summer school enrolment. Plus, this gives your child a chance to choose books that he or she is interested in, keeping the activity fun and interesting too!

Ways to incorporate reading into your summer plans

On average, students lose 2 months of reading skills over the summer.

- Take a trip to your local library
- Bring a book with you to the park or the beach
- Read a chapter in the morning, when your child is used to learning and before other plans cause distraction

Use these ideas to make reading an enjoyable pastime for both you and your child.



Children are at risk of losing more than just academic knowledge during the summer – physical fitness levels also take a hit. Encouraging physical activity all summer long will help your child stay at peak mental form, as physical health is known to enhance academic performance.

Ways to incorporate physical activity into your summer plans

- Sign your child up for a team sport
- Encourage learning a new skill such as swimming
- Go on walks and explore your local area

Regular physical activity can lead to increased concentration and improved mathematics and test scores.

Be sure to take advantage of all the different opportunities to get outside and get active.



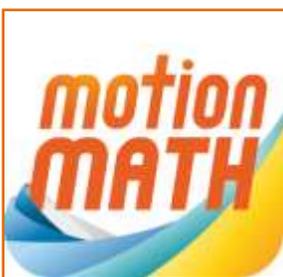
The use of technology offers many opportunities to encourage summer learning. Through promoting vital skills like problem solving and critical thinking, educational games are a valuable way to allow technology to your summer learner.

Ways to incorporate educational technology into your summer plans

- Challenge your child to a new high score on an educational app
- Start a tech project together – like a toy robotics kit
- Teach kids through your own tasks – i.e. baking a cake, or fixing a bicycle



Between 65,200 educational apps, various tech-based toys, and even just household activities, there are an endless supply of tech projects to use to encourage summer learning for your child. Check out these fun and educational apps for your child: Motion Math | Story Time For Kids



Motion Math: A fantastic game that helps kids (ages 8 and up) master placing fractions on the number line, in four forms: numerator over denominator ($1/2$), percents (50%), decimals (0.5), and pie charts.

In the first controlled study of an iPad learning game, kids who played *Motion Math: Fractions* for 5 days:

- **Improved 15% in test scores.**
- **Improved 10% in math attitudes.**



LEARNING GOALS

- Master estimation of fractions, percents, decimals and pie charts
- Locate the many representations of fractions on a given number line
- Build automaticity in comparing fractions

MATH PILLAR

Number sense is critical for all other math topics; fractions mastery is connected to multiple Common Core Standards in grades 3-5.

KEY PRODUCT FEATURES

- Intuitive, tilt game play
- Progress stars, sound and star effects, and exclamations (“Yes!” “Perfect!”) reward a player for solving problems.
- Beginner, medium, and expert modes for different learners.
- Game Centre leader boards and achievements offer additional challenges.
- Hints and scaffolding help struggling players.



Download on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch, or get it on Google Play, the Amazon App Store, or the Windows Store.



Story Time For Kids is nothing like any other iPhone or iPad apps for kids that you might have come across before. Developed by *Teknowledge Software* - the top mobile application development company in India – the app boasts of an enormous range of captivating stories. Couple that with the charming, child-friendly mobile app designing themes, in-app games and other interactive features – and you have an iPhone application that will keep kids hooked for hours on end!



What Makes Story Time For Kids So Special? It's not only the amazing range of stories, and the lovely, life-like illustrations on Story Time For Kids that make it one of the best iPhone apps for kids. The application comes with seamless animations, and offers smooth touch features. There is an auto-upgrade feature in the app as well, which makes the reading experience for children very enjoyable.



One Of The Most Interactive & Fun Apps For Kids Story Time For Kids packs in bundles of excitements for children, as they read along their favourite stories on the app. Children can tap on the animated characters, and hear them actually speak! To read every line without any hassles, the text can be easily swiped on the iPhone/iPad screen too. Every illustration on the stories is original, colourful and adds an extra dash of fun to the app. Some of the coolest cartoon rivalries are also presented on the app.



Great Value As An Educational App For Kids Story Time For Kids helps children in their bid to learn the basics of English language too. Whenever your child comes across a word they not aware of, they can simply tap on it – and find out its meaning. What's more, kids can also pick up the right pronunciation of the words, thanks to the audio support. If you are on the lookout for learning apps for kids, Story Time would be a great choice. All of these education benefits are embedded in the app.



SUMMER LEARNING LOSS STATISTICS



2.6
MONTHS

OF MATH ARE SKILLS **LOST** OVER THE SUMMER



EQUIVALENT
OF
ONE
MONTH



OF OVERALL LEARNING IS **LOST** AFTER SUMMER VACATION



SIX
WEEKS

IN THE FALL ARE SPENT **RE-LEARNING OLD MATERIAL** TO MAKE UP FOR SUMMER LEARNING LOSS



TWO
MONTHS

OF READING SKILLS ARE **LOST** OVER THE SUMMER



2-3
HOURS
PER WEEK

DURING **SUMMER** IS NEEDED TO PREVENT ANY VACATION LEARNING LOSS

AS EARLY AS
—GRADE—

ONE

SUMMER LEARNING
LOSS CAN BE RECOGNIZED

**TWO
MONTHS**

OF **SUBJECT-FOCUSED** LEARNING
IS ALL IT TAKES TO IMPROVE
SPECIFIC LEARNING SKILLS

BY THE END OF
**GRADE
—SIX—**

STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED
SUMMER LEARNING LOSS OVER THE YEARS
ARE AN AVERAGE OF **2 YEARS**
BEHIND THEIR PEERS

**TWO
THIRDS**

OF THE **INCOME-BASED**
ACHIEVEMENT GAP IS ATTRIBUTED
TO SUMMER LEARNING LOSS
BY THE START OF HIGH SCHOOL

IT CAN
TAKE
UP TO **2**
MONTHS

FROM THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
FOR A STUDENT'S BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
TO GET BACK ON TRACK



15 Critical Facts Every Parent Should Know About Summer Learning Loss **AND** Should the School Year be Longer?



Summer holidays are a long entrenched tradition for schoolchildren and their families, as mentioned previously, new research is showing that this practice may not be the best when it comes to helping kids get the most out of their educational experience. In fact, for some kids, a few months off in the summer can lead to major setbacks in school, including loss of knowledge and lowered test scores. Many schools, aware of the growing body of evidence that points to the educational problems summer holidays pose, are highlighting the prospect of switching to year-round schedules, but there are many more around the

world that are finding it hard to make the switch due to resistance from across the board. Following are some facts that can help make understanding why extended summer holidays should be a thing of the past for modern students, especially those who are in high-risk communities where every moment in the classroom counts.

What do you think, should the school year be longer, or should we as parents be responsible for, and continue, our child's education over the summer months, after all they're our children?

1. STUDENTS SCORE LOWER ON STANDARDISED TESTS AT THE END OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS THAN THEY DO AT THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER HOLIDAYS

While having a few months off for rest and relaxation might seem beneficial to students, it can actually have some serious consequences. The traditional long summer months often results in serious learning loss, something researchers have known for more than 100 years now. A century of study has shown that students routinely score lower on standardised tests at the end of summer vacation than they did just a few months earlier, with low-income and at-risk students seeing the biggest drops, the exact groups so many schools are trying so hard to push to have better test scores.

2. STUDENTS WILL LOSE ABOUT TWO MONTHS OF MATH COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS OVER THE SUMMER

When it comes to summer learning loss, math takes one of the biggest hits. On average, students lose about 2.6 months worth of

grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during their summer break. With many schools struggling to meet national standards in math already, these kinds of losses aren't helping.

3. READING AND SPELLING ABILITIES ARE ALSO AFFECTED

Math isn't the only subject that takes a knock over summer vacation. Losses in reading and spelling abilities may also occur, though income may play a significant role in how severe these losses are, or whether or not they occur at all. While middle-income students usually see a rise in reading performance during the summer months, lower-income students may lose two or more months worth of reading achievement. Students at all income levels, however, were likely to lose a month or more of spelling learning skills, the second highest loss in any area.

4. STUDENTS WITH THE BIGGEST LOSSES OVER THE SUMMER ARE IN ALREADY HIGHER-RISK LOW INCOME GROUPS

Sadly, the students who see the biggest drops in test scores and educational achievement are those who are in lower-income groups. Income plays a major role in determining just how much learning loss will occur over the summer, with students from middle- or upper-class families undergoing much lower levels of learning loss than their poorer counterparts.

5. SUMMER LEARNING LOSS CAN FOLLOW STUDENTS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND BEYOND

Summer learning loss isn't a temporary phenomenon. Losses can accumulate over years, eventually resulting in students who perform below their grade level. Low-income students, those who lose the most from time away from school, see the biggest impact, not only reporting lower test scores but higher drop-out rates and lower numbers of students who head to college.

6. ONLY 9.2% OF AMERICA'S 48 MILLION STUDENTS ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL

Today, just under 10% of students nationwide participate in summer school or attend schools with non-traditional calendars. That means that more than 90% of students will be at risk for potentially damaging summer learning loss.

7. PARENTS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN FILLING IN THE GAPS OVER THE SUMMER

When it comes to helping lower summer learning loss, parents have a key role to play. Learning loss is much less pronounced, if there at all, in families that enrolled children in classes, took trips to local libraries, participated in reading programs, or took advantage of other, often free, learning opportunities. Numerous studies have shown that children have much better reading outcomes when parents are involved in

learning about and helping their children with literacy.

8. THE CURRENT 9-MONTH SCHOOL CALENDAR WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUIT DEMANDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST

Having a nice, long summer holiday may be traditional, but it isn't one that really reflects the needs and demands of the modern world. The traditional academic calendar used in most schools was developed when most families worked in agriculture and air conditioning systems had yet to be invented. Since neither of these are realities in much of society these days, many have argued that long summer breaks simply aren't necessary anymore, especially because they take such a hefty toll on test scores and academic performance.

9. MUCH OF THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP BETWEEN DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS AND THEIR PEERS CAN BE EXPLAINED BY SUMMER LEARNING LOSS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Because students who are from low-income families have unequal access to summer learning opportunities, many fall behind in their studies and cannot keep up with their wealthier peers. While it might not seem that the summer months would have a big impact on students, it's estimated that as much as two-thirds of the achievement gap is the result of summer learning loss. As a result of these early losses, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from secondary school or to enter college.

10. MANY PARENTS AND STUDENTS WANT TO ENGAGE IN SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS BUT DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THEM

A 2010 report by the Afterschool Alliance found that, while only 25% of students were currently participating in summer learning programs, many more would like the opportunity to do so. A full 83% of parents supported spending public funds on summer learning programs and 67% of low-income parents said their children would enrol in a summer program if they could.

11. WHAT STUDENTS LOSE IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY OFTEN GAIN IN WEIGHT

Students get more than book learning from time spent at school; they also learn to eat a healthy diet. Many depend on the nutritious and regular snacks to be able to maintain a healthy diet. When these are no longer scheduled and are provided at different times each day, students often make poorer food choices, especially when left unsupervised by working or stressed parents. A 2007 study found that most children, especially those already at risk of obesity, gain weight more rapidly over summer break.

12. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT TEACHERS TYPICALLY SPEND BETWEEN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS RE-TEACHING MATERIAL THAT STUDENTS HAVE FORGOTTEN OVER THE SUMMER

Summer learning loss isn't just bad for students, it also makes things more difficult for educators. In order to come back from losses caused by an extended time away from school, teachers must spend a month or more re-teaching or reviewing material students have already been taught. It goes without saying that this is a huge waste of valuable classroom time that could be better spent teaching students new material.

13. MORE THAN 11% OF CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND

12 CARE FOR THEMSELVES OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS

This means that they are unsupervised, a situation that is not only dangerous but that often leads to greater summer learning losses, as children are not being guided through learning opportunities like trips to the library, museums, or educational vacations. Low-income children are much more likely to be left unsupervised (likely due to the high costs of childcare), a fact that is reflected in greater levels of learning loss.

14. OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME CAN BE DANGEROUS FOR UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN AND TEENS

Students who are alone for most of the day over the summer months aren't just losing important educational information, they're also being put at a higher risk for dropping out altogether. Unsupervised children and teens are more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco; engage in criminal and other high-risk behaviours; receive poor grades; and drop out of school than those who are supervised and engaged by adults over the summer months and after school during the school year.

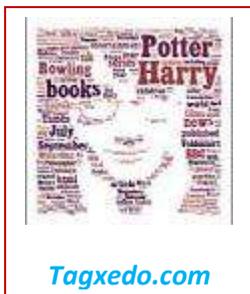
15. MOST SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS ARE REMEDIAL

Sadly, students today have few options for state-sponsored summer school programs. Summer school has a negative connotation which can make students reluctant to take classes and parents unwilling to enrol them. Why? More than 90% of summer school programs are remedial, targeting only students who are not performing at grade level. While these kinds of programs can be positive for students, studies have shown that year-round education programs and extended school years are far more effective methods of stemming the summer learning loss phenomenon.



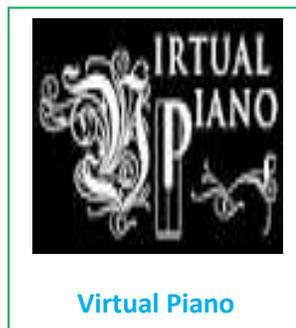
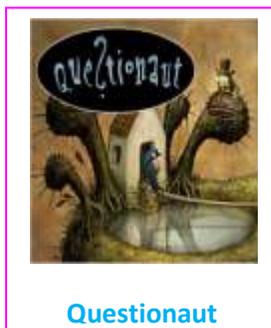
- 📖 [ScholasticKids'Club.ie](http://ScholasticKidsClub.ie)
- 📖 MagicTreeHouse.com Children climb up a tree and enter the tree house to find some great puzzles, fun games and quizzes on any of the 45+ books.
- 📖 Toporopa.eu Can't afford that summer vacation schlepping around Europe? No worries, just pull up Toporopa on your nearest browser and learn all about the geographical, political, historical and economical aspects of the wonderful continent.
- 📖 ReadWriteThink.org Creates a lot of great educational resources. With Printing Press, children can create a booklet, flyer, brochure or newspaper fairly easily. There is a nice guide that walks you through the process, and the focus is on writing. There is a place within each publication for a picture, but not one that you can add from your computer. This space is reserved for children to draw a picture after printing.
- 📖 Flickr.com 'Spell With Flickr' is a simple site that allows you to enter any word, and will then create a photo representation of that word using pictures from Flickr.
- 📖 Freeology.com A fantastic resource for teachers to download pre-made or create a plethora of free graphic organizers, forms, calendars, certificates, worksheets and more!
- 📖 Tagxedo.com A Wordle-esque site that allows children to create beautiful word clouds. The great thing about Tagxedo that in my opinion is where Wordle falls short is the ability for users to save their creations (without logging in) as either a jpeg or png.
- 📖 [Learn Your Tables.co.uk](http://LearnYourTables.co.uk) A nice interactive site that allows children to practice their multiplication times tables. Learn Your Tables is ideal for introducing topics on an interactive whiteboard (not that you'll have one over summer, but it's good for thinking about next school year), and for extension material on individual computers or in a lab.
- 📖 Vatican.va 'Virtual Sistine Chapel' An amazing 360-degree interactive view of the Sistine Chapel brought to you by your friends at the Vatican. You can fly around the astounding artwork and zoom into the frescoes at a pretty decent level. This site would be great for art history and religious studies.
- 📖 [Cool Math.com](http://CoolMath.com) Designed for the pure enjoyment of mathematics. This interactive site features a plethora of fun games, puzzles, calculators and lesson plans.

- 
Science Bob.com A fun, interactive site that has several different areas for kids to choose from. There are videos, experiments, science fair ideas and a research help link with many fantastic links to other sites. Don't forget to click on the "Whatever you do, DON'T CLICK HERE" button (or not).
- 
Grammaropolis.com A fun, interactive site that helps children learn about the parts of speech.
- 
Math Live Math Live, a fantastic site for upper elementary children, is full of cartoon math tutorials on subjects like fractions, multiplication, area and perimeter, tessellations, probability, and a variety of other topics. The glossary section is an amazing collection of math concepts animated for more solid understanding.
- 
Animal Diversity Web From the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, the Animal Diversity Web is an online database of animal natural history, distribution, classification and conservation biology. Children can browse the information on individual creatures from the Kingdom Animalia and find thousands of pictures on specific animals. What's great about the Animal Diversity Web is that children can sign up to become contributors to the website. To do this, teachers must submit a request form.
- 
E-Learning For Kids e-Learning For Kids is a great site with some wonderful interactive learning games that are engaging and fun. Children click on their grade and can then choose from a list of games divided into subjects.
- 
Rhymes.net Rhymes.net is a simple search site that returns rhyming words to whatever you enter in the search field. The rhyming words are divided into syllables for ease of use, and there is a list of photos of whichever word you search for. Even better, Rhymes.net automatically generates citations for bibliographies.
- 
CELLS Alive! CELLS Alive! represents 30 years of capturing film and computer-enhanced images of living cells and organisms for education and medical research. The site has been available continuously and updated annually since May of 1994 by Jim Sullivan, and now hosts over four million visitors a year.



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Catch the Science Bug The educational goals of Catch the Science Bug are to increase science literacy and raise environmental consciousness by adhering to national standards and guidelines for content, to use different teaching methods for engaging all types of learners, and to encourage life-long learning by featuring scientists who model this behaviour.
- 
ABCya! ABCya! is a fun site for lots of great games and activities. There is a nice word cloud generator very similar to Wordle that creates nice-looking word clouds. The one-up ABCya! has over Wordle is that you may directly save your word cloud as a .jpg without any registration.
- 
Ribbon Hero 2 Ribbon Hero is an add-on for Microsoft Office that allows you to play a game within the Office application (e.g., Word), teaching some of the unique features of the program. Users playing Ribbon Hero earn points for doing different tasks within Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.

- 
Invention at Play Invention at Play is a fantastic interactive website from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. When asked what inspired them to become inventors, many adults tell stories about playing as children. The Invention Playhouse takes this fact and offers up great activities to increase problem solving ability, visual thinking, collaboration and exploration.
- 
Virtual Piano As a computer teacher, I can see this site as having huge potential. Virtual Piano is a beautifully sounding piano that you play by typing on your keyboard. You can play "Für Elise" by following the key-pattern available. As this is in beta version, I'm guessing that over time, there will be more song choices and hopefully more learning connectivity with the computer keyboard.
- 
Google Classroom Lessons and Resources Web search can be a remarkable research tool for children - and Google has listened to educators saying that they could use some help to teach better search skills in their classroom. The Search Education lessons were developed by Google Certified Teachers to help you do just that. The lessons are short, modular and not specific to any discipline, so you can mix and match to what best fits the needs of your classroom. Additionally, all lessons come with a companion set of slides (and some with additional resources) to help you guide your in-class discussions.
- 
Merriam-Webster Word Games Merriam-Webster Word Games is a nice collection of games that gets children thinking and improving their lexicon. There are crosswords, cryptograms, word searches, jumbles and a plethora of other brainy games.
- 
Questionaut Questionaut is a Math, English and Science game from the BBC. The premise of the game is your standard question/answer delivery, but what I really like about this game is twofold. One, the artwork, created by Amanita Design, is amazing. You could get lost in just looking at all the beautiful details. The second thing that really brings this educational game to a higher level, in my book, is that children will have to work and explore to be given the questions. Within each level, the player will need to complete a series of clicks to release the questions, adding a very subtle think-out-of-the-box element to the game.



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Story Jumper Story Jumper is a wonderful site that allows children to create their very own books. You can create cover pages, add text, upload drawings or photos to illustrate your story, and you can use the Story Jumper clipart gallery, too. One of the best things about Story Jumper is that it is easy for teachers to create and assign student accounts.
- 
Games for Change I'm a big fan of quality educational games, and this site takes it to the next level. Games for Change is a non-profit organization which seeks to harness the extraordinary power of video games to address the most pressing issues of our day, including poverty, education, human rights, global conflict and climate change. As of this writing, there are quite a few dead links to the games (Balance of

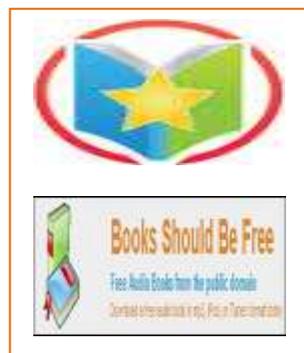
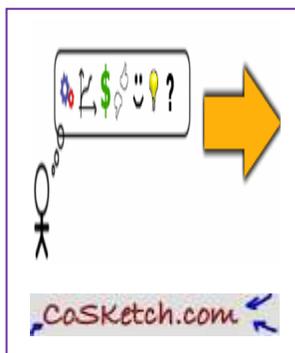
the Planet, ElectroCity, Globaloria), but I have high hopes that updates will come soon, as I really like the idea of this site.

- 📖 **Who Pooped.org** You know that, with a name like Who Pooped, this will be popular with the younger children. Who Pooped is a science site created by the Minnesota Zoo to help children begin thinking like scientists. One way scientists learn about animals is by studying their poop -- also called "scat" or "dung." Who Pooped allows children to investigate various types of scat and try to match the scat with its creator. A very interactive site which would pair well with IWBs.
- 📖 **Number Gossip** Number Gossip is a simple search box where you enter any number and receive back "everything you wanted to know about the number but were afraid to ask." For example, I entered the number 38 and got these facts: 38 is the magic constant in the only possible magic hexagon (which utilizes all the natural integers up to and including 19); XXXVIII (38) is lexicographically the last string which represents a valid Roman numeral; 38 is the largest even number which cannot be written as the sum of two odd composite numbers.
- 📖 **Illuminations: Dynamic Paper** Need a pentagonal pyramid that's six inches tall? Or a number line that goes from -18 to 32 by fives? Or a set of pattern blocks where all shapes have one-inch sides? You can create all those things and more with the Dynamic Paper tool. Place the images you want, then export it as a PDF activity sheet for your children or as a jpeg image for use in other applications or on the web.
- 📖 **Shelfari** Even though Shelfari has been taken over by Amazon, it's still my favorite book review site and would make for a great summer project for parents and children. Shelfari is dubbed the "premiere site for people who love books," and the concept is to create a virtual bookshelf of all the books you've read or are reading. You can then add a rating (one to five stars) as well as a written review of the book and when you are done. And Shelfari gives suggestions on what you might want to read next.
- 📖 **Vocab Ahead** Vocab Ahead is a collection of short videos that give definitions, usage and pictures associated with interesting vocabulary words. You can subscribe to receive a vocab video of the day, and there is also a section of videos by children that are fantastic.
- 📖 **Science With Me** Kids love hands-on projects, and Science With Me is chock-full of fun science projects. You'll also find science movies, songs, colouring sheets, worksheets and stories to help kids learn scientific principles and science in a fun way.



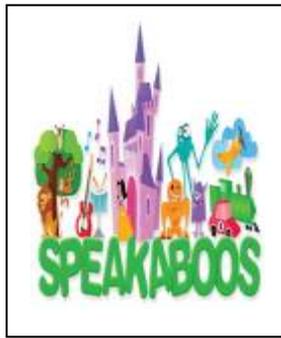
- 📖 **MathRun.** A fun site for practicing basic math facts, Mathrun is a simple idea (math problems float up the screen, and you have to tell whether they are correct or incorrect), and I love simplicity. There is no registration required and no advertisements -- I love this, too. Mathrun rates your brain speed in mph and keeps a running total of how many problems you solved correctly. This is a great site to use for independent practice.

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Academic Skill Builders Academic Skill Builders is a research-based and standards-aligned free website featuring educational math and language arts games that will engage, motivate and help children improve their academic skills. There are many interactive games to choose from and they're all pretty fun, have decent graphics/sound effects, and offer great practice to specific skills.
- 
100 Coolest Science Experiments on YouTube It's a stellar resource for science teachers that has, as the title suggests, links to 100 cool science experiments. If your district has YouTube blocked, you can download any of the videos using 3outube. There are some really cool videos here, and it's well worth a gander.
- 
MathTV Math TV is an amazing collection of how-to videos in a variety of math subjects. Checking it out, I watched a video on how to multiply fractions and I (a teacher) learned a new method. Imagine what your children can learn. This site is free, but it does require you to register to be able to view the videos.
- 
Books Should be Free.com Books Should be Free (formally Audio Owl) makes the world's public domain audio books available for browsing in a visual and easily searchable way. You can search for a specific title, or use the genre list to visually scan through hundreds of titles. Books may be previewed directly on the site, or you may download them directly into iTunes, or as zipped mp3 files. The downloads are broken into chapters, which is useful for teachers using this as a listening station.
- 
Arts Alive Arts Alive is a performing arts educational website developed by the National Arts Centre of Canada. There are sections for children, teachers and parents to learn more about the performing arts and ways to discover a greater appreciation of music, theatre and dance.
- 
CoSketch CoSketch is a collaborative drawing site which requires no joining, logging in or registration. Perfect for elementary classes. It's a no frills tool, so there are not a lot of extras, but for simple drawing and text, it works great. Users just go to the site, click on create a sketch, and begin drawing. To add more people, you just send them the url. There's also a nice chat feature. I could see using this to collaboratively solve math problems, play hangman using vocab words, exploring maps (there is a built-in Google Maps support), and a variety of other applications. Finished drawings can be embedded into blogs or websites.



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Interactive Simulations From the University of Colorado at Boulder come some fantastic Java-based interactive simulations. From glaciers to natural selection to circuit construction, these simulations really show children how things work.
- 
Active Science Active Science has 15 different scientific modules, each with interactive games and activities. Great for use with IWB.

- 📖 **Kerpoof** Kerpoof is an online story and comic-creator which allows children to create comic scenes and stories, as well as animated movies, cards, drawings, doodles and pictures. Educators are able to sign up for a class account, which allows an entire class to login simultaneously using the assigned nickname and password created by the teacher. There are no ads or inappropriate content, and the artwork is fun and lively. Finished products may be saved, printed, or emailed. Great site for story creating!
- 📖 **Mrs. P's Magic Library** "An award-winning FREE storybook destination. Classic children's stories brought to life by TV star Kathy Kinney as Mrs. P."
- 📖 **Speakaboos.com** Stories, songs and games for early readers.
- 📖 **Ranger Rick** An online nature magazine for children.
- 📖 **Common Lit** Common Lit delivers high-quality, free instructional materials to support literacy development for children in grades 5-12. Resources are flexible, research-based, and aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
- 📖 **Storyonline** Online stories read by members of the Screen Actors Guild Foundation



REMEMBER





SUMMER READING BUCKET LIST

www.notimeforflashcards.com

read in a tent READ A BOOK ABOUT WILD ANIMALS read at breakfast

read a book about a city far away

read at the park **READ A BOOK WITH CHAPTERS** read a book about bugs

read a book then act it out

read a book to a pet **read at dinner** **READ A BIOGRAPHY**

READ IN THE BATH **READ A MAGAZINE**

read a book that makes you laugh

read in a blanket fort read an ebook **read a book you wrote**

read a book about space **READ A BOOK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP**

READ UNDER A TREE **READ ON VIDEO** read by flashlight

READ A BOOK WITHOUT WORDS **read a book about your country**

READ A BOOK AS A FAMILY

read an alphabet book **READ A COMIC BOOK**

read a book in a funny accent **read a pop up book**

read at the beach **READ A BOOK ABOUT ART**

READ ALL SUMMER LONG



Take A Hike

Loughcrew Cairns Near Oldcastle, which does require a steep climb, but it is worth it for the magnificent views from the top!

Take A Walk

Mullaghmeen Forest Situated 5 miles/ 8 km from Oldcastle, Mullaghmeen has 1,000 acres of forest. Picnics can be had and there are long and short walks depending on level of fitness.

Originally the land was part of Lord Buckinghamshire's Irish Estate. Later, Mullaghmeen became the property of Lord Gradwell of Dowth hall in County Meath and was run as a farm. In the 1930's, the Department of Agriculture acquired Mullaghmeen forest and planted deciduous trees on the limestone rich soil. Mullaghmeen Forest is a state forest and provides 14 miles of roadway for the walker. It leads to the highest point in Westmeath (894ft.)

How to get there: Mullaghmeen Forest is 9km from Castlepollard and 10km from Oldcastle. From Castlepollard, drive out Water Street past the National and VEC schools and stay on this road. There are a few sharp turns and one sharp Y junction turn where the left fork should be taken (it is signposted for the forest but easy to miss) but basically stay on the same road until you come to the main entrance to the forest (which is signposted) on the left. From Oldcastle, take the Castlepollard road past Millbrook to the first Y junction where a right turn off the main road should be taken. Follow this road until you pass Briody Holdings on the right and take a left turn immediately after this shop. The forest is on this road so keep driving until the main entrance gate is seen on the right.

Balrath Wood Balrath can be enjoyed throughout the year. However, the ideal time to visit Balrath is in late summer/early autumn when there are plenty of leaves and some fruits/nuts on the trees, some wildflowers still in bloom and also some insect life to be seen. Spring and summer are also good times, especially to see woodland wildflowers in their natural habitat. Balrath Wood (also known locally as Knockcomra) was once part of the larger Somerville estate. It was a fine example of mixed broadleaf woodland. Some of the original trees still remain but most of this 50 acre (20 hectare) wood was replanted in 1969 with a number of species including oak, beech, ash and spruce. Currently it can be described as mixed conifer/broadleaf woodland. The Tree Council of Ireland and Meath County Council are now responsible for the woodland management and the upkeep of the wood as a place that everyone can learn from and enjoy. www.Balrath Wood Teachers & Family Information Pack pdf

Located just off the N2 from Ashbourne (only approx. 35 km from Dublin). Take a left turn off the N2 for Navan and Balrath Wood is situated on your left. Alternatively, take the Kentstown Road for Ashbourne/Duleek and Balrath Wood is situated approx. 10 km from Navan.

Heritage Trail Walks

Meath, Ireland's Heritage Capital has seven different heritage walks all designed to show the rich heritage of the area.

Have a look at some of the following heritage trails by selecting the links below.

- [Athboy Heritage Trail](#)
- [Beamore/Kilsharvan Heritage Trail](#)
- [Clonard Heritage Trail](#)
- [Duleek Heritage Trail](#)
- [Kells Heritage Trail](#)
- [Moynalty Heritage Trail](#)

Historic Town Trails

County Meath – Ireland's Heritage Capital was once the territory of the High Kings of Ireland. Some of the most important historic sites and monuments are located within County Meath and virtually every important aspect of Irish history from prehistoric times is associated with the county.

Walking in Meath is a tonic for the soul and there is no better way to appreciate and marvel at this engaging history than experiencing one of our three Historic Town Trails in **Slane, Kells & Trim**.

[Kells Historic Town Trail](#)

[Slane Historic Town Trail](#)

[Trim Historic Town Trail](#)

[Navan Points of Pride Walking Tour](#)

Other Walks

The Meath Coast

Although seven miles long, Meath's coastline is a microcosm of coastal life, cultural and physical. There is nothing quite like a refreshing walk among the dune formation on the coast. Quiet, secluded, peaceful. Watch

out for the theba pisana (alias helix pisana). This variety of snail is unique to these dunes and just one of the many local features of these parts. This walk can commence from the train station at Laytown where you can catch a train from Dublin/Drogheda/Belfast and walk along the beach to Mornington.

Sli na Slainte have devised several walking routes:

- [Sli na Slainte Navan](#)
- [Sli na Slainte Trim](#)
- [Sli na Slainte Kells](#)
- [Sli na Slainte Tara](#)
- [Sli na Slainte Bettystown/ East Meath](#)

There is also another walking route in [Dalgan Park](#)

Kells Girley Eco Bog Walk

A truly unique and magical place. Wear sturdy footwear and bring drinking water.

The Kells Girley Bog Eco Walk is a 3.5 miles/ 5.6 km waymarked National Loop. It covers varying landscape of forest and bogland. The terrain is flat and uneven and walking boots are recommended. The first section of this looped walk takes you through a tranquil Coillte forest, where there is a coniferous forestry plantation located on high bog. The coniferous trees are fast growing species that originate in North America. The two common species are Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine. After this section, you will follow a forest track before entering Girley Bog, one of the few remaining raised bogs in County Meath. Girley Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance, as it comprises of a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. There is a wonderful variety of birdlife, plant and animal life and this is displayed through a number of interpretive panels along the walk. Listen out for the birdsong as you walk. The loop finishes with a walk along further country lanes before tracing your steps back to the carpark.

Directions to Trailhead

Starting from the centre of Kells Town, take the N52 following the signs for Mullingar. On the outskirts of the town turn right – following the N52 for Mullingar. Continue to follow the N52 for approximately 7km. Turn left onto a forestry roadway and follow for approximately 100m to reach the trailhead. [Note: The trailhead is signposted from Kells.

Canal, River and Hill Walks

County Meath has two special walking routes:

Royal Canal Walk

Start Point of Walk:	Ashtown, Dublin and ends in Mullingar.
Description of route:	77km - long distance, divided into 7 sections,
Length and duration of walk:	half day walk for each section
Features:	Enfield harbour, Moyvalley tree lined stretch
Approx percentage of route on/off public roads:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1km road, 2km track, 6km grassy track.• 5.75km track/unsealed road, 9.25km grassy bank – rest by footpath near road• Way crosses N4 at Moyvalley bridge so care is needed.
Where is information on this route available:	walks.iwai.ie/royal www.waterwaysireland.org

Hillwalking at Loughcrew

Start Point of Walk:	Loughcrew Cairns Guided tours in Summer months
Description of route:	Hillwalk
Length and duration of walk:	3-4km
Difficulty Level:	Medium challenge
Features:	The Loughcrew Complex are smaller in scale than the monuments of Newgrange, Knowth & Dowth however are 5000 years old. Stunning views await the visitor.
Proximity to tourist service facilities:	Oldcastle and Kells are close by
Where is information on walking here is available:	Tourist Information in Oldcastle and Kells Heritage Centre

Way-Marked Walks

Explore County Meath on foot through our fantastic Way-Marked walking routes

Fresh air, green rugged fields, the crystal waters of the Boyne river, friendly & engaging people ... discover why Meath is a great place to explore on foot.

[Boyne Ramparts Walk](#), [Kells Girley Bog Eco Walk](#), [Littlewood Forest Walk](#), [Trim Castle River Walk](#).

Cycling in Meath

Take out your bicycles and get active. Follow an established cycle trail or find an off-road route.

The Boyne Greenway

A shared use walking and cycling route from Drogheda Ramparts to Oldbridge entrance (Battle of the Boyne site).

This is Phase 1 of a route going from Drogheda to Slane, Navan, Trim and connecting onto the Dublin to Galway corridor at Enfield. Total route length approx 45km.

Proposed route length for this project: 4km.

[Boyne Greenway - Cycleway Layout Map pdf](#), [Boyne Greenway - Cycleway Location Diagram pdf](#),

Head to the Beach

Bettystown, Laytown and Mornington.

We're not blessed with beaches in County Meath and have just seven miles of coastline, but the beaches at Bettystown, Laytown and Mornington are sandy and have safe, shallow bathing. You don't have to wait for the sun to come out. Head to the beach with coats, hats and wellies, if needs be, and take a walk on the shore. Bring fishing nets and explore rock pools. Mind you, it's quite likely that the kids will want to get wet, so perhaps take towels and a change of clothes, even if you don't plan on swimming!



THINGS TO DO IN IRELAND!

Summer
2016



Ennis Street Festival, Clare

The Ennis Street Festival is a celebration of the many cultures and artistic ways that make Ennis, Co. Clare, a special place, with a colourful mix of music, dance, visual arts, puppets shows, arts exhibitions, workshops, acrobatics and many more surprises for all the family.

When: July 4th – 10th

Laya Healthcare's City Spectacular, Dublin & Cork

Celebrating its 11th birthday this year, Laya Healthcare's City Spectacular is going to be even bigger, better and more spectacular than ever as it takes to Dublin's Merrion Square & Cork's Fitzgerald Park, Cork city this July. Featuring some of the best street theatre performers around, and with a host of exciting events, fantastic exhibitions and absorbing interactive workshops, there will be plenty to entertain the whole family.

When: Dublin: July 8th – 10th; Cork: July 16th – 17th;

Galway International Arts Festival, Galway

See Galway City come alive for the annual Galway International Arts Festival this July. Showcasing street performers music and theatre, there are events for all ages, and surprises around every corner. This is a great time to visit Galway.

When: July 11th – 24th

Enniscrone Black Pig Festival, Sligo

Head to Enniscrone this July for the Enniscrone Black Pig Festival, where you can enjoy treasure hunts, fireworks, music, street performers, great food and a Market Day at this family friendly festival.

When: July 21st – 25th

Festival of Curiosity, Dublin

The Festival of Curiosity runs in various Dublin venues late July. The festival programme is packed full of arts, science and technology events and has a host of free daytime activities for families. From a giant outdoor Bubblearium, to special Lego Workshops and much more, indulge your curiosity this July.

When: July 21st – 24th

Durrow Scarecrow Festival, Laois

The Durrow Scarecrow Festival is a fun family event for young and old, with over 300 scarecrows to see around the village, in many different designs and themes. There's plenty more on offer too including live music, craft workshops, country market, adult, teen and children's entertainment, and scarecrow treasure hunt.

When: July 24th – August 1st

Lughnasa at Craggaunowen, Clare

Celebrate Lughnasa at Craggaunowen this August Bank Holiday weekend with an array of costumed re-enactors from the Bronze Age to Medieval times. Activities include combat demonstrations, Brehon

law trials and much more!

When: July 31st & August 1st

Duncannon Sand Sculpture Festival, Wexford

Duncannon Sand Sculpting Festival is a family fun event for all ages with free activities, spectacular professional sand sculptures, fireworks, beach games, music and street entertainment. There's also an Amateur Sand Sculpting Competition that's open to all, and a spectacular firework display over the bay of Duncannon.

When: August 5th – 7th

Kilkenny Arts Festival

In August the city of Kilkenny will come to life with the annual Kilkenny Arts Festival. There's visual art, classical music, theatre and dance, jazz, world & traditional Irish music, literature, film, indie music, craft, children's and street events and more – something for everyone!

When: August 5th – 14th

Loughrea Medieval Festival, Galway

The 3 day Loughrea Medieval Festival held during National Heritage Week, comprises scenes of everyday life in Medieval Loughrea, as well as being jam-packed with fun events and performances that will entertain the whole family.

Celebrate Walled Towns Day with re-enactments, craft demonstrations, medieval music, food and craft market, boat trips, traditional 'have-a-go' craft workshops, children's traditional games, grand parade and lots more.

When: August 26th – 28th

Enniscorthy Rhythms Dance Festival, Wexford

Enniscorthy Street Rhythms Dance Festival in May is a fun, family friendly dance and rhythm festival in Enniscorthy, with live dance acts, baby bop for the tots, and lots of fringe events for everybody

from age 2 to 102! This year you can expect to meet lots of Disney Princesses and fairytale characters.

When: 28th – 29th May

Bloom in the Park, Dublin

Ireland's largest gardening, food and family event, Bloom in the Park is back this year at Dublin's Phoenix Park in Dublin City this June Bank Holiday weekend. Families visiting the event this year will once again be entertained by the outdoor entertainment stage and highly enjoyable and educational Kids Zone.

When: June 2nd – 6th

Dublin Port River Fest

The Dublin Port River Fest will be fun for all the family, taking place on and around the river Liffey. Visit the large old sailing ships or pop along to the Pirate Village with arts and crafts for the kids. There'll be a Dublin Port Tug Boat Dance with Water Canon on the river; face painters; balloon artists; port boat tours; a fun fair; food market; and live entertainment.

When: June 3rd – 6th

Moby Dick Festival, Cork

The Moby Dick Festival, in Youghal, is a weekend of family-friendly and free events. Activities include the sea-themed costume kids ocean parade, outdoor ceili, on-street entertainment, a ball race down windmill hill, and a teddy bears picnic with kiddie disco, arts and crafts and sports corner.

When: June 3rd – 5th

Baltimore Pirate Festival, Cork

All pirates (past and present) are invited to celebrate and commemorate the demise of 108 settlers taken away as slaves by Algerian Pirates on 20 June 1631 at the Baltimore Pirate Festival this June. Highlights includes visits to the thirteenth century fully restored O'Driscoll Castle, pirate dress competition, pirate boat trips, a family treasure hunt, and pirate bouncy castles and games.

When: June 17th – 19th

Cork Midsummer Festival, Cork

Cork Midsummer Festival is Cork's largest annual multi-disciplinary arts festival for all ages along the banks of the river Lee, with many national and international theatre and music events, and the return of family favourite, Picnic in the Park.
When: June 17th – 26th

Trim Haymaking Festival, Meath

Find your inner farmer and try your hand at some sheaf tossing at the National Hay Making Festival in Trim, Co. Meath mid June. Just a stone's throw from Dublin, this is a fun day for all the family with working horses, vintage tractors, a pets' corner, kids play area, and folklore and tales.
When: June 19th

Westport Food Festival, Mayo

"Food" will be the word on everyone's lips as the Westport Food Festival returns in June, catering for all from mini chefs right up to mature foodies. Events include a food village at The Octagon, seaweed foraging, foodie tours, kayaking, mushroom foraging, children's pizza making, foodie tours, a pop up restaurant and more.
When: June 24th – 26th

Wexford Maritime Festival, Wexford

At the Wexford Maritime Festival in June, you'll find a celebration of Wexford's rich maritime heritage, and can enjoy maritime activities, family fun, artisan food and music. Children can enjoy

dance and musical activities, arts and crafts, science workshops, circus workshops and shows at the Children's Village. Discover Wexford's Viking past in the Viking tent where children can try their hand at brass rubbing and sword making.
When: June 25th – 26th

Féile Brian Ború, Clare

Féile Brian Ború celebrates the life and legacy of Brian Ború (founder of the O'Briens) – the most famous son of the historic twin towns of Killaloe and Ballina. Fun activities include historical guided tours on lake and land; fireworks display over the River Shannon, traditional street games, garden party, children's art competition, street theatre and much more! There really is something for everyone in the family at this fun event.
When: June 30th – 3rd July

Promenade Festival, Waterford

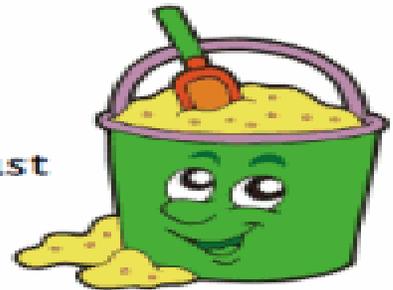
The Promenade Festival, Tramore is the biggest family fun festival in the South East with an airshow, international artists, street entertainers, live wrestling, puppet shows, and an artisan food & drink village.
When: July 1st – 3rd.



Summer BOREDOM Busters

Summer Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters B U C K E T.
Don't guess - use logic



	T			K	
	U	K	B	C	
T					U
K					C
	B	E	C	T	
	K			U	

SUMMER SUDOKU SOLUTION

B	T	C	U	K	E
E	U	K	B	C	T
T	C	B	K	E	U
K	E	U	T	B	C
U	B	E	C	T	K
C	K	T	E	U	B

Word Fill-In Puzzle



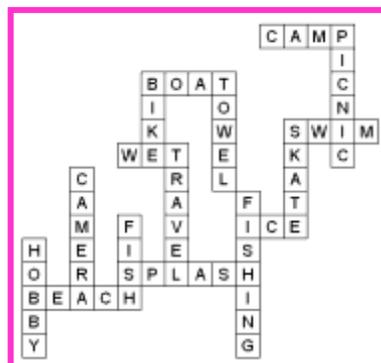
3 Letters
wet
ice

4 Letters
camp
boat
swim
bike
fish

5 Letters
beach
towel
skate
hobby

6 Letters
picnic
splash
travel
camera

7 Letters
fishing



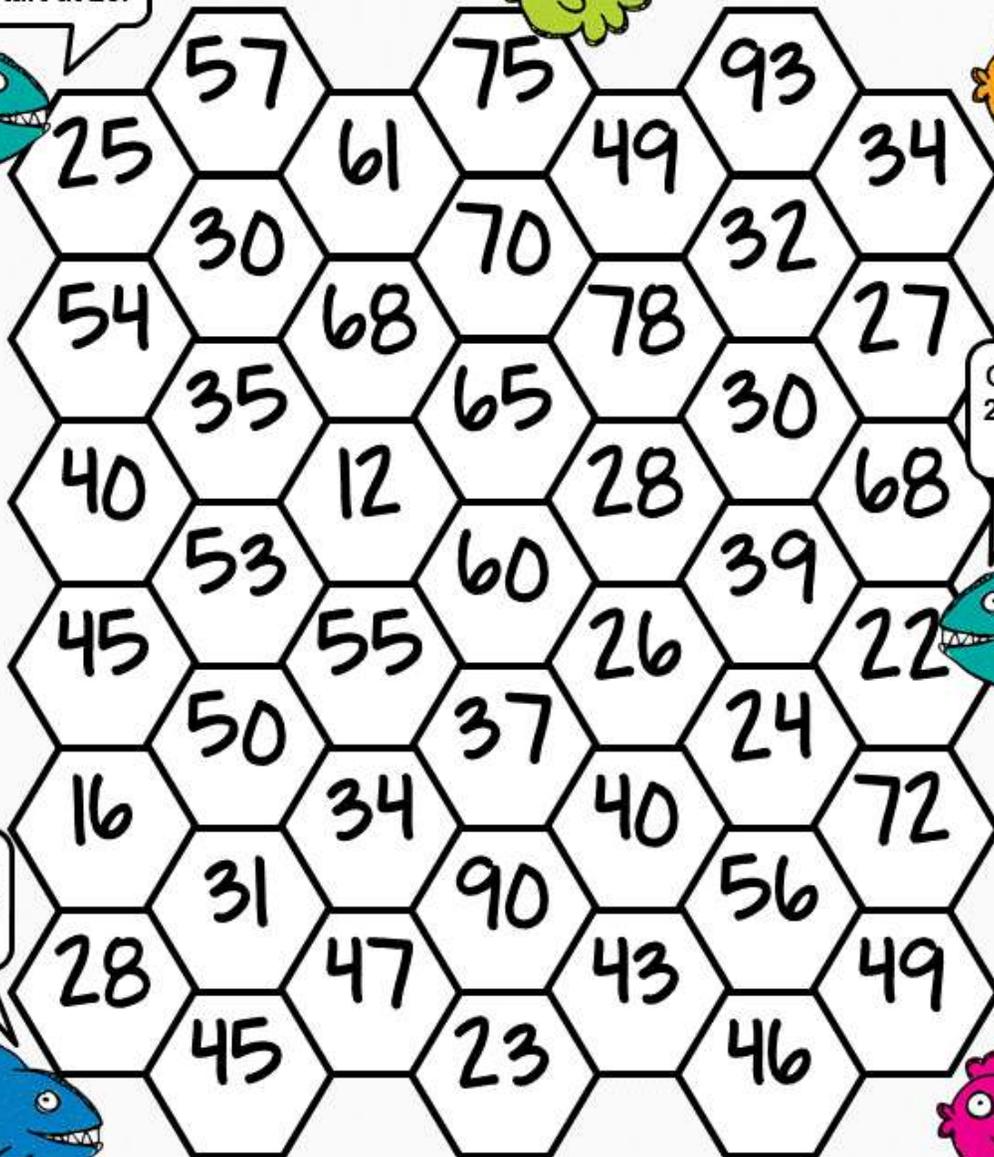
Shark Counting Maze 1

Help each shark to catch a fish. Color a path for each shark. Use a different color for each. Each shark will tell you how to count.

Count in 5's.
Start at 25.

Count in 2's.
Start at 22.

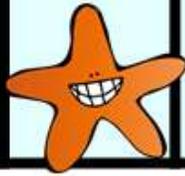
Count in 3's.
Start at 28.



For solution see page 24.

start

$9+1$



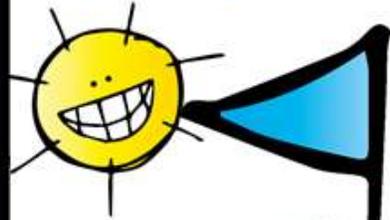
$8+9$

$6+7$

$12+7$

$2+6$

$8+8$



Build a Sandcastle

Addition Game
a game for 2 – 4 players
Need: counters, dice

$9+9$

$13+6$

$8+4$

$7+2$

15

10



$8+7$

$7+4$

20

14

17

11



$4+9$

13

18

9

15

$15+5$

$11+7$



16

12

8

19



$5+6$



Each player puts a counter on Start. Players take turns to roll the dice, move forward that many spaces, answer the addition, then cover the answer on the sandcastle with a counter. If the number is covered the player doesn't cover any number on this turn. If a player lands on a starfish, they can cover a number of their choice. The winner is the player who covers the last number on the sandcastle.

$5+4$

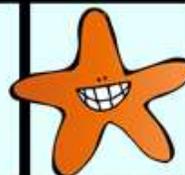
$9+3$

$9+6$

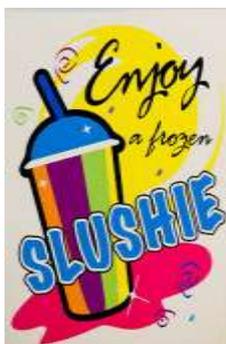
$5+3$

$10+7$

$5+9$



$7+9$



Serves: 8 **Made in:** 15 minutes **Difficulty:** Super easy

Ingredients

- 500 g strawberries
- 1 lemon
- 1 sprig of fresh mint,
- 1 tsp golden castor sugar
- ice cubes

Method

1. Pick the top leafy bits off the strawberries.

2. Pick the mint leaves, discarding the stalk.
3. Add the strawberries and mint leaves to a liquidiser along with 100g of ice cubes.
4. On a chopping board, cut the lemon in half.
5. Squeeze half the juice into the liquidiser, using your fingers to catch any pips.
6. Add enough cold water to just cover the strawberries (roughly 350ml), pop the lid on and whiz until smooth.
7. Fill a large jug halfway up with ice cubes.
8. Taste the slushie and sweeten with a little sugar, if needed.
9. Pour into the jug and stir with a wooden spoon. Serve and enjoy!

Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag

Ingredients

- 1 cup (237ml) whole milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 sandwich ziploc bag
- 1 gallon (4.54L) ziploc bag
- 3 cups crushed ice
- ½ cup rock salt



Rock Salt: The cheap, non-food grade salt that we throw onto icy walkways and use to make ice cream. It doesn't actually go into the ice cream.

Method

1. Put first 3 ingredients in the smaller Ziplock bag and seal bag (Make sure it is tightly closed!).
2. Put ice and rock salt in the larger bag and then put the filled small bag into this bigger bag.
3. Seal the large bag. (Make sure it is tightly closed!).
4. Shake the bag like your life depended on it, i.e.

until the mixture has thickened, about 10-15 minutes.

5. Remove small bag, unseal, and **eat immediately** (this ice-cream turns very icy when placed in a freezer and doesn't taste very nice then).
6. **Note:** add peanut butter, or crushed Oreo cookies to flavour, sprinkles, etc.
7. No need to even dirty a bowl!





Ingredients:

1 cup of sugar (can reduce if you feel it is too sweet)

1 cup of lemon juice

1 cup of water

2 to 3 cups of water to dilute

Method:

- Heat the sugar and one cup of water in a saucepan until the sugar is dissolved
- Squeeze 4 to 6 lemons until you have enough juice to fill one cup
- Place the sugared water and lemon juice in to a jug and add the additional water to dilute (dilute to taste)
- If you still feel it is too sweet add some more lemon juice
- Place in the fridge for 30 to 40 mins
- Serve with slices of lemon and ice



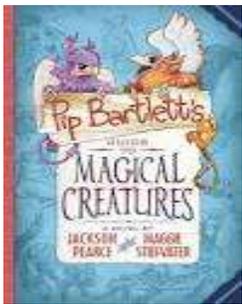
Ingredients



- Tesco Butter Biscuits with Milk Chocolate (1 box will make 4 smores)
- Tesco Marshmallows
- Tinfoil (if using a barbecue)

Method

- Place a butter biscuit chocolate side up on the centre piece of tinfoil.
- Place four marshmallows onto the chocolate side.
- Place another butter biscuit on top of the marshmallows (chocolate side facing the marshmallows)
- Wrap securely (but not too tightly), to prevent leakage on the barbecue.
- Place on barbecue and allow to heat and melt for 10-15 minutes.
- **Note:** tinfoil and smores will be hot so be careful.
- *Alternatively, follow recipe and method, do not wrap in tinfoil, instead place on a side-plate and heat/melt in microwave for 2-3 minutes.*



Pip Bartlett's Guide to Magical Creatures

by Jackson Pearce and Maggie Stiefvater, illustrated by Maggie Stiefvater

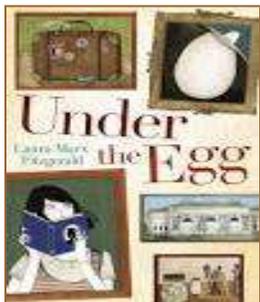
Think Tribbles crossed with Harry Potter and Nancy Drew and you'll begin to understand the draw of Pip Bartlett. When the Fuzzles invade town, it's up to Pip and her friend Tomas to figure out what's going on and how to stop these adorable, yet easily flammable, creatures from taking over.



A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans

by Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder, illustrated by Mary GrandPré

Miss Drake, an ageless and slightly irritable dragon, has a problem. Her longtime pet, a human, has died, and her new human pet Winnie seems to think she's in charge. You see, 10-year-old Winnie believes that humans keep dragons for pets, not the other way around. But that's not the only problem Miss Drake has. She needs to figure out how to stop Winnie's drawings of magical creatures from coming to life and terrorising San Francisco. These two are going to have to learn to work together if they're going to put things right.



Under the Egg

by Laura Marx Fitzgerald

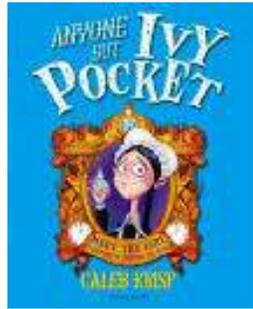
Theo Tenpenny has a problem. Her mother has some issues, her neighbour hates her chickens, and her grandfather has just died, leaving her in possession of what could possibly be a priceless painting by a Renaissance master that may or may not be stolen. Spend your summer with Theo as she tries to solve the mystery of the painting and you'll never look at art the same way again.



Infographics: Space

by Simon Rogers, illustrated by Jennifer Daniel

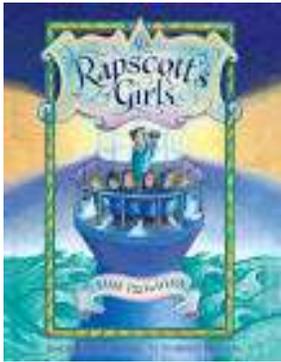
Have a “Star Wars” lover, “Star Trek” fan, or budding astronomer in your house? Get them this book and let them spend their summer nights with a telescope out under the stars. Filled with the thousands of facts you would expect from the Infographics series, this book is perfect for the stargazer in your house.



Anyone But Ivy Pocket

by Caleb Krisp, illustrated by Barbara Cantini

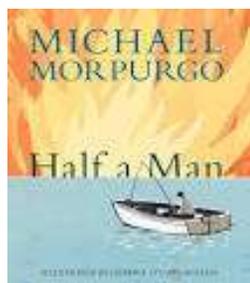
Ivy Pocket is an orphan with an attitude. Completely clueless, constantly misunderstood, and frequently deluded, she nonetheless finds herself in possession of a priceless necklace with strict instructions to deliver it to one Matilda Butterfield, a well-heeled, but bratty aristocrat. Things can only go downhill from there. Part *Jane Eyre*, part *Lemony Snicket* and a lot of fun, *Anyone But Ivy Pocket* is a must-read of the summer.



Ms. Rapscott's Girls

by Elise Primavera

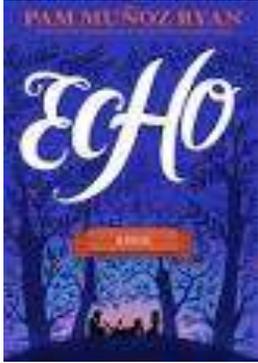
If you are a parent with a daughter you haven't the time to raise, I urge you to take advantage of The Great Rapscott School for Girls of Busy Parents. You don't need to drop them off, a cardboard box will conveniently arrive at your doorstep. Just deposit one girl, seal the box, and you're done. Snacks are provided. And never fear, the curriculum is excellent. The introductory program “How to Find Your Way” will ensure that your precious gem will be able to manage quite nicely in the big world without you. *Disclaimer: Only one child has ever been lost, and even that was only temporary.



Half a Man

by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Gemma O'Callaghan

From the author of *War Horse* comes a touching story of a young boy and his grandfather. Michael doesn't understand his taciturn and physically scarred grandfather, but during a summer together on the Isles of Sicily, he learns to see the man behind the scars as the two navigate the waters of the island and their own emotional terrain.



Echo

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

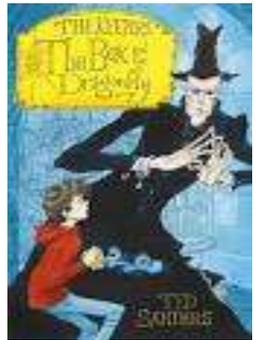
A fairy tale blends with modern day characters in this masterful new novel from the author of *Esperanza Rising*. The book begins with Otto, who meets three sisters and is caught in their prophecy, at the centre of which is a harmonica. As the instrument travels through the ages, the story ensnares all who come in its path. This book weaves together fantasy, music, and unforgettable characters, bringing individual stories together in the final pages in a way both unexpected and magical.



Story Thieves

by James Riley

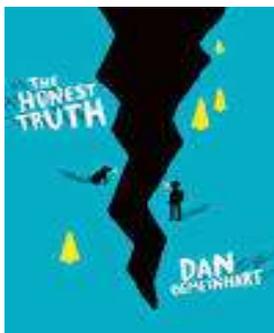
School is usually pretty dull for Owen, until one day he sees a classmate climbing out of a book. Turns out, Owen's friend Bethany is half fictional and is jumping in and out of books to find her father who happens to be completely fictional. Owen does what any self-respecting boy would do with this information — he blackmails Bethany into taking him into his favourite series. Which turns out to be far more complicated than Owen ever imagined.



The Keepers: The Box and the Dragonfly

by Ted Sanders, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno

Bus rides are never very interesting, which is usually the case for Horace F. Andrews, too. But one day, Horace notices a sign with his own name on it from the bus window and things suddenly get very, very interesting. The sign leads Horace to the House of Answers, and he is drawn into a world of intrigue and adventure unlike anything he had ever imagined. With a dash of physics and plenty of magic, this is a perfect summer page-turner.



The Honest Truth

by Dan Gemeinhart

Mark is a normal kid with a dog and friends and big dreams. Mark, however, has cancer, and he's not going to make it. So Mark decides to run away. Taking only the things most important to him — his dog, a camera, and a notebook — Mark heads off to climb Mount Rainier. In a sea of dystopia and fantasy, *The Honest Truth* stands out as a book about the world we live in, the choices we make, and the things we lose and gain along the way.

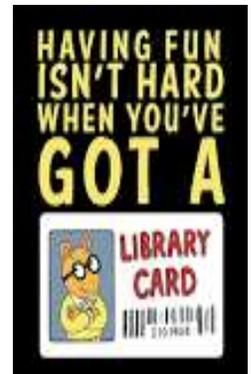


Joining the Library



Meath County Libraries operates on an open to all policy which means that anyone who lives, works or visits the County is welcome to make use of the library facilities. Membership is open to anyone living or working in the county. A simple application form can be filled out at any of our Meath Libraries and a library card or tickets can be issued immediately. Library membership is free to everyone. For adults, proof of identification is required, something which includes a photograph and something with your name and address, such as a passport, driving licence, utility bill etc. The loan period is currently two weeks but this may be extended. Children and adults are allowed up to four items on their ticket. Fines accrue on overdue books. Children may join the library at any age. Parents or guardians need to sign the membership forms and are responsible for any items borrowed on the card. Library cards can be used in any of the Meath County Libraries. About your card:

- Please take care of your Library card and remember to bring your Library card with you when you visit the Library.
- If you do not have the card with you will be asked for some form of identification before you can borrow items.
- Please let us know about any changes to your name, address or telephone details.
- Beware of lending your card to anyone else, as you are responsible for any items borrowed on it.
- Please let us know as soon as possible, if your card is lost or stolen





Navan Library Events

All events are free unless indicated.

Children's Summer Stars Reading Scheme

Please note the 'Summer Star' summer reading scheme will be launched here in the library on Thursday 30th June.

'From East to West' Art Exhibition by Betty Jackson

Launch in Navan Library on Thursday 2nd June from 7pm – 8.30pm. All Welcome.

Regular Adult Events

Adult Book Club (Navan Active Retirement Association)

First Tuesday of every month at 11am.

Thursday Adult Book Club

Weekly meeting every Thursday at 10.30am.

Knitting Circle

Tuesdays at 11am (except first Tuesday of each month)

Spanish (Intermediate) Conversation.

Tuesdays at 7pm. This group meet every Tuesday for spanish conversation. An intermediate level and above. All newcomers are welcome.

Adult Crafts Group.

Thursdays at 6.30pm. The group meets every week sharing ideas and teaching skills to newcomers.

Navan Creative Writers.

Wednesdays at 11.30am. New members welcome to attend.

Children's Events:

Parents and Toddlers Storytime Group.



Every Wednesday at 10.30am. Come along for stories, songs, games and colouring. Suitable for pre-school children.

Junior Creative Writer's Group.

Saturday mornings at 10.30am (except Bank Holiday weekends). Please leave your contact details at the desk if you are interested in joining.

Junior Book Clubs:

8 - 10 years Wednesday 8th June at 3pm. Movie afternoon.

10 - 12 years Wednesday 15h June at 3.15pm. Movie afternoon

Children's Saturday Chess Club.

Every Saturday except Bank Holiday Weekends. 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Slane Library Events

All events are free of charge unless otherwise indicated.

Children's Summer Star Reading Scheme:

Please note the 'Summer Star' summer reading scheme will be launched here in the library on Thursday 30th June.

Games Activity Hour

Every Saturday 11am-12pm Come along for an hour of Board Games and Activity Sheets

Adult Book Club

Thursday 16th June at 7.00pm Book for discussion: At home with the Templetons by Monica McInerney

Junior Book Club Saturday 25th June at 1.30pm Book for discussion: The Railway Children by E. Nesbit



Drogheda Library

Children's Summer Star Reading Scheme:

Please note the 'Summer Star' summer reading scheme will be launched here in the library on Thursday 30th June.

Ongoing Events:

'All Write ', Adult Creative Writer's Group: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month @ 2.30pm.

Parent & Toddler Group: Every Wednesday @ 10.30am.

Adult bookclub: Last Thursday of every month @2.30pm

Ardee Library

Children's Summer Star Reading Scheme:

Please note the 'Summer Star' summer reading scheme will be launched here in the library on Thursday 30th June.

Ongoing Events:

Junior Film Club: Every Saturday morning, 10.45am-12.30pm

Junior/Young adult Bookclub: Monthly on Wednesdays, 4pm-4.45pm Register your interest at issue desk.

Parent & Toddler Time: Every Friday @ 11am

Knitting Group: Tuesday @ 11am

Beginner Computer Classes: Wednesday @ 11am.



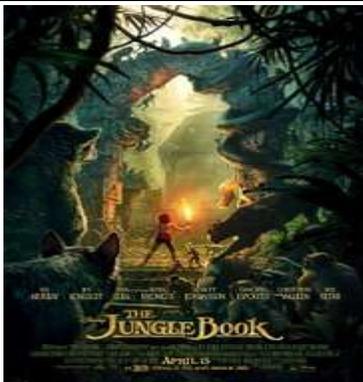


Alice Through The Looking Glass (PG)

Adventure, Family, Fantasy

Release: May 2016

Alice returns to the magical world of Underland, only to find the Hatter in a horrible state. With the help of her friends, Alice must travel through time to save the Mad Hatter and Underland's fate from the evil clutches of the Red Queen and a clock like creature, known as Time.



The Jungle Book (PG)

Adventure, Drama, Family

Release: May 2016

The man-cub Mowgli flees the jungle after a threat from the tiger Shere Khan. Guided by Bagheera the panther and the bear Baloo, Mowgli embarks on a journey of self-discovery, though he also meets creatures who don't have his best interests at heart.



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – Out of the Shadows (PG)

Action, Adventure, Comedy

Release: May 2016

The Turtles continue to live in the shadows and no one knows they were the ones who took down Shredder. And Vernon is the one everyone thinks is the one who took Shredder down. April O'Neill does some snooping and learns a scientist named, Baxter Stockman is working for Shredder. He plans to break him out while he's being transported. April tells the turtles who try to stop it but can't. Stockman tries to teleport Shredder but he somehow ends up in another dimension and meets a warlord named Krang who instructs Shredder to assemble a teleportation device he sent to Earth a long time ago. He gives

Shredder some mutagen which he uses to transform two criminals who were also in the transport with him, Rock Steady and Bebop into mutants. And they set out to find the device. April saw the transformation while investigating Stockman, She would take the mutagen and she would be chased by Shredder's minions, the Foot Clan. He is saved by a man named Casey Jones who was the one who ..

Finding Dory (PG)

Animation, Adventure, Comedy

Release: June 2016

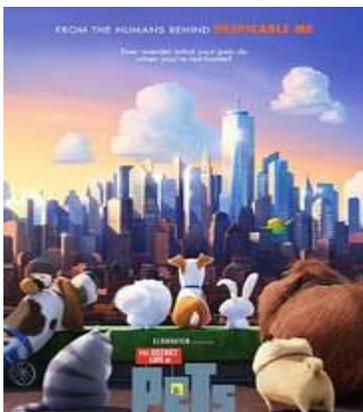


Finding Dory welcomes back to the big screen everyone's favourite forgetful blue tang Dory (voice of Ellen DeGeneres), who's living happily in the reef with Marlin (voice of Albert Brooks) and Nemo (voice of Hayden Rolence). When Dory suddenly remembers that she has a family out there who may be looking for her, the trio takes off on a life-changing adventure across the ocean to California's prestigious Marine Life Institute, a rehabilitation centre and aquarium. In an effort to find her mom (voice of Diane Keaton) and dad (voice of Eugene Levy), Dory enlists the help of three of the MLI's most intriguing residents: Hank (voice of Ed O'Neill), a cantankerous octopus who frequently gives employees the slip; Bailey (voice of Ty Burrell), a beluga whale who is convinced his biological sonar skills are on the fritz; and Destiny (voice of Kaitlin Olson), a nearsighted whale shark. Deftly navigating the complex inner workings of the MLI, Dory and her friends discover the magic within their flaws, friendships and family.

The Secret Life of Pets (PG)

Animation, Comedy, Family,

Release: June 2016



Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favorite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke. They have to put their quarrels behind when they find out that an adorable white bunny named Snowball is building an army of abandoned pets determined to take revenge on all happy-owned pets and their owners.



The Legend of Tarzan (12A)

Action, Adventure

Release: July 2016

It has been years since the man once known as Tarzan (Skarsgård) left the jungles of Africa behind for a gentrified life as John Clayton III, Lord Greystoke, with his beloved wife, Jane (Robbie) at his side. Now, he has been invited back to the Congo to serve as a trade emissary of Parliament, unaware that he is a pawn in a deadly convergence of greed and revenge, masterminded by the Belgian, Captain Leon Rom (Waltz). But those behind the murderous plot have no idea what they are about to unleash.

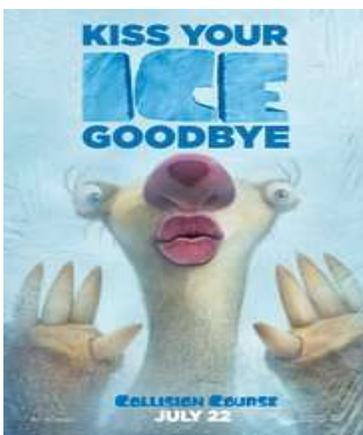


The Little Prince (PG)

Animation, Adventure, Drama.

Release: July 2016

From Mark Osborne comes the first-ever animated feature film adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's iconic masterpiece, The Little Prince. At the heart of it all is The Little Girl, who's being prepared by her mother for the very grown-up world in which they live - only to be interrupted by her eccentric, kind-hearted neighbour, The Aviator. The Aviator introduces his new friend to an extraordinary world where anything is possible. A world that he himself was initiated into long ago by The Little Prince. It's here that The Little Girl's magical and emotional journey into her own imagination - and into the universe of The Little Prince - begins. And it's where The Little Girl rediscovers her childhood and learns that ultimately, it's human connections that matter most, and that what's truly essential can only be seen with the heart.

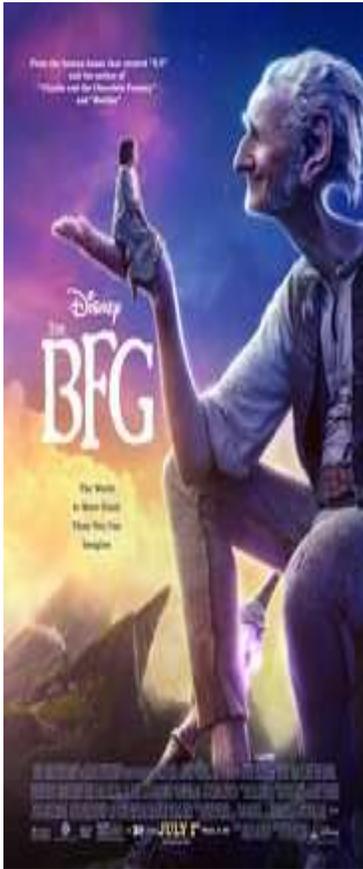


Ice Age 5: Collision Course (PG)

Animation, Action, Adventure.

Release: July 2016

Scrat's epic pursuit of his elusive acorn catapults him outside of Earth, where he accidentally sets off a series of cosmic events that transform and threaten the planet. To save themselves from peril, Manny, Sid, Diego, and the rest of the herd leave their home and embark on a quest full of thrills and spills, highs and lows, laughter and adventure while travelling to exotic new lands and encountering a host of colourful new characters.



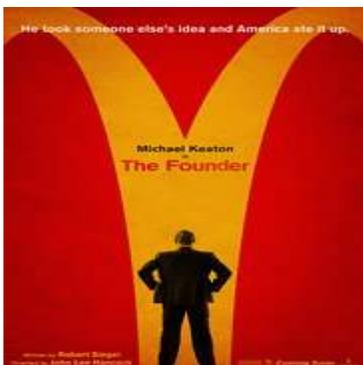
The BFG (PG)

Adventure, Fantasy, Family.

Release: July 2016

The BFG (Mark Rylance), while a giant himself, is a Big Friendly Giant and nothing like the other inhabitants of Giant Country. Standing 24-feet tall with enormous ears and a keen sense of smell, he is endearingly dim-witted and keeps to himself for the most part. Giants like Bloodbottler (Bill Hader) and Fleshlumpeater (Jemaine Clement) on the other hand, are twice as big and at least twice as scary and have been known to eat humans, while the BFG prefers Snozzcumber and Frobscottle. Upon her arrival in Giant Country, Sophie, a precocious 10-year-old girl from London, is initially frightened of the mysterious giant who has brought her to his cave, but soon comes to realize that the BFG is actually quite gentle and charming, and, having never met a giant before, has many questions. The BFG brings Sophie to Dream Country where he collects dreams and sends them to children, teaching her all about the magic and mystery of dreams.

Having both been on their own in the world up until now, their affection for one another quickly grows. But Sophie's presence in Giant Country has attracted the unwanted attention of the other giants, who have become increasingly more bothersome. Says Spielberg, "It's a story about friendship, it's a story about loyalty and protecting your friends and it's a story that shows that even a little girl can help a big giant solve his biggest problems." Sophie and the BFG soon depart for London to see Queen Victoria (Penelope Wilton) and warn her of the precarious giant situation, but they must first convince the Queen and her maid, Mary (Rebecca Hall), that giants do indeed exist. Together, they come up with a plan to get rid of the giants once and for all.



The Founder (PG-13)

Biography, Drama, History.

Release: August 2016

Chronicling the rise of McDonald's fast food empire, *The Founder* tells the true story of how Illinois salesman Ray Kroc met brothers Mac and Dick McDonald, operating a hamburger restaurant in southern California in the 1950s. Kroc subtly manoeuvres himself into a position to take control of their company, which grows into one of the world's best-known brands after he buys the chain for \$2.7 million in 1961.



Nine Lives (PG)

Comedy, Family, Fantasy.

Release: August 2016

Tom Brand (Kevin Spacey) is a daredevil billionaire at the top of his game. His eponymous company FireBrand is nearing completion on its greatest achievement to date - the tallest skyscraper in the northern hemisphere. But Tom's workaholic lifestyle has disconnected him from his family, particularly his beautiful wife Lara (Jennifer Garner) and his adoring daughter Rebecca (Malina Weissman). Rebecca's 11th birthday is here, and she wants the gift she wants every year, a cat. Tom hates cats, but he is without a gift and time is running out. His GPS directs him to a mystical pet store brimming with odd and exotic cats- where the store's eccentric owner- Felix Perkins (Christopher Walken), presents him with a majestic tomcat, named Mr. Fuzzypants. En route to his daughter's party, Tom has a terrible accident. When he regains consciousness he discovers that somehow, he has become trapped inside the body of the cat. Adopted by his own family, he begins to experience what life is truly like



Pete's Dragon (PG)

Adventure, Family, Fantasy.

Release: August 2016

For years, old wood carver Mr. Meacham (Robert Redford) has delighted local children with his tales of the fierce dragon that resides deep in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. To his daughter, Grace (Bryce Dallas Howard), who works as a forest ranger, these stories are little more than tall tales...until she meets Pete (Oakes Fegley). Pete is a mysterious 10-year-old with no family and no home who claims to live in the woods with a giant, green dragon named Elliott. And from Pete's descriptions, Elliott seems remarkably similar to the dragon from Mr. Meacham's stories. With the help of Natalie (Oona Laurence), an 11-year-old girl whose father Jack (Wes Bentley) owns the local lumber mill, Grace sets out to determine where Pete came from, where he belongs, and the truth about this dragon.



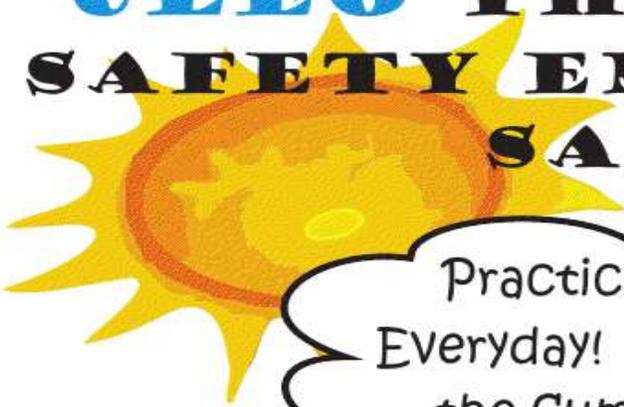
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (PG)

Adventure, Fantasy

Release: September 2016

When Jacob discovers clues to a mystery that spans different worlds and times, he finds a magical place known as Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. But the mystery and danger deepen as he gets to know the residents and learns about their special powers... and their powerful enemies. Ultimately, Jacob discovers that only his own special "peculiarity" can save his new friends.

CLEO THE SUMMER SAFETY EMBASSADOR SAYS...

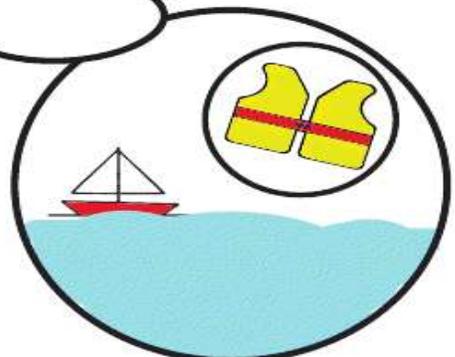


Practice Safe Play
Everyday! Remember all
the Summer Safety
Rules

★ Adult Permission
and Supervision is
Key to staying safe!



Protect yourself from the heat of the sun by wearing sun screen, sun glasses and a cap



A life jacket can keep you safe when playing in or near water



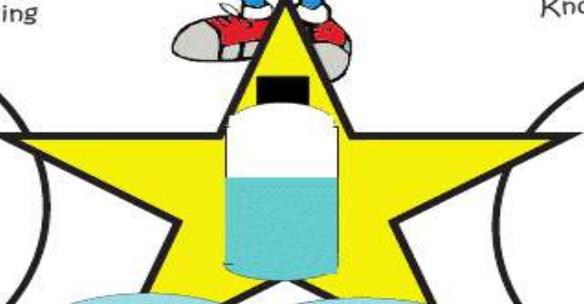
Always wear a helmet when bike riding or roller blading



Know your traffic signals!

Where
Who
What
When

The person looking after you should always know where you are, who you are with, what you are doing and when you will be back



Make a reusable water bottle your best friend. Keep you body hydrated by drinking plenty of water



Always sit in the back seat of a moving vehicle and buckle up!



Preparing for September 2016

Before we know it, the holidays will be over and we will have to say goodbye to the lazy days of summer, it will be time to turn our attention to the new school year. Whether a student yourself or a parent responsible for one, try and make the often harsh transition a lot easier with these four tips for starting the school year off on the right foot.

1. Plan Out and Reset Your Daily Schedule

Many adults and children have different schedules during the summer holidays than they do during the school year. Bedtimes and wakeup times creep later or simply become irregular. Two of the biggest keys to a student's success, though, are getting enough sleep and sticking to a consistent routine, so mid-August is the time to ease into the new school year schedule.

- **Slowly move bedtimes and wakeup times back to what they should be during the school year.** You can do this gradually over one or two weeks. If meal times or other regular routines have changed over the summer, reset those as well.
- **Block out the school schedule (holidays, test days, etc.) on a calendar.** For parents, a family calendar in a prominent place helps everyone see what's going on at a glance, including after school activities and childcare. Students should map out their class schedule for the next school year and also block out times for studying, meal, exercise, and other essentials..
- **Figure out where you're going.** One of the biggest stressors at the start of school is if you're going to a new building or your classes are in different locations than last year. New students/parents should know the route to school, where the classrooms are, and how long it takes to get there.

2. Organise Your Workspace and Supplies

If you (or your child) don't have an organised area to work in yet, mid-August is the time to get it set up.

- **Declutter and streamline the workspace.** Make sure it's a quiet, distraction-free place.
- **Stock up on the supplies you need,** including any organisation accessories like file folders or desk trays.
- If you're buying a new computer for school, you might want to set the computer up before the first day of school, so you're not fumbling with the PC at the last minute.
- **Make sure you have a system for processing school work** (a file accordian? Scanner and laptop?) and keeping upcoming assignments front and centre.
- Speaking of paperwork, there's often lots needed at the start of the year, such as medical forms or immunization records. Now's the time to get those medical and other appointments out of the way so you can have the forms ready when you need them.

3. Get in the Back-to-School Mindset

The new school year is a refreshing time, when you get to start anew. Then again, your mind might still be back at the beach. To get juiced up about the new semester:

- **Review your previous academic achievements.** The summer might have made you forget about that awesome term paper you wrote last year or the straight A's in math. A quick review can not only energise you for the new school year, it can help

you identify areas you might want to work on more this year.

- **Set goals for yourself for this upcoming school year.** Setting goals (and sticking with them) is an important skill students of all ages can learn. Instead of vague goals like “get good grades,” come up with SMART goals like “During the first hour at home, I will complete my homework during the hours of 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. on school nights at my desk in my bedroom. After completing my homework, I will put my homework in a homework folder and put it in my backpack. At school the next day I will turn in my homework to my teacher. I will revise this goal at the end of every week.” Scholastic has a list of everyday study skills and activity sheets to learn about setting goals, managing time, and creating the right environment.

4. Start the First Week the Way You Want to Continue

Doing the above should help you get a good start on the school year. You can make the first week even

easier by setting up the daily routines that make school life easier.

- **The weekend before, organise uniforms for the week ahead.** Each night before school, prep lunch and snacks, and maybe even dinner.
- **Throughout the week, try to get to school early, check out the school’s resources, and start making friends in class.**
- A **“Get ready for school!” checklist** might help both young and older lazybones do what’s needed to get ready in the morning.



Deirdre

Have a fantastic summer, super crazy adventures and remember, KEEP READING!