

Hey Tigers,

Want to hear something very scary? According to researchers, most students lose one to three months of learning in the summer! What's worse is that this learning loss can be cumulative, meaning a child can get further and further behind during every summer in which academic skills are not practiced.

You and your teachers have been working hard during this school year to maximize every learning opportunity. Therefore, the staff at Western Pines desperately wants to avoid this "summer slide," also known as "brain drain." **Your summer assignment will be one of your first important grades in language arts in the 2023-2024 school year! All you have to do is to read one book from the Scholastic Reading Counts list that meets these three criteria.**

- The book must have a Lexile Level of 650 or above.
- There must not be a movie based on your book. If you're not sure, Google it.
- You must not have taken a Reading Counts quiz on this book before.

If you are not sure if a book is Reading Counts, you can Google "Reading Counts" or go to this website: <https://readingcountsbookexpert.tgds.hmhco.com/>

You can find a wealth of Reading Counts books at your local library and on MackinVIA (accessible through your district portal). You will take a Reading Counts quiz on this book when you return to school. Your teachers recommend that you **take notes as you read**, so that you can perform better on the Reading Counts quiz.

You are smart, hardworking students with enormous potential. Your teachers want you to stay this way! We encourage you to go to above and beyond the summer work we assigned. During the middle school years, your brain is growing and forming neural pathways. If you strengthen your brain by challenging yourself, reading, problem solving, and being creative, you will be developing skills to help you be successful in high school and your future career.

We have confidence that our Western Pines Tigers will make good choices this summer, and we look forward to seeing you in August.

Any questions? Email Cheryl.Sall@palmbeachschools.org or call Mrs. Jimenez at 561-792-2537.

Have a ROARing good summer,

Philip Preddy, Principal

Western Pines Community Middle School

philip.preddy@palmbeachschools.org

Phone: (561) 792-2500

Twitter - @philippreddy

Facebook - @WesternPinesMSOfficial

