*Burr Elementary School*

*1960 Burr Street*

*Fairfield, Connecticut 06824*

Jason Bluestein, Principal Phone (203) 255-7385 Fax (203) 255-8244

"I'm wondering what to read next." — *Matilda*, Roald Dahl

June 13, 2014

Dear Burr Parents,

Welcome to summer reading! I wanted to take a moment to share with you Burr’s summer literacy expectations for all of our students. Summer literacy is an important component of students’ reading and writing development. Students who read and write over the summer are able to comprehend more sophisticated text, write with more fluency and detail, and develop higher level thinking skills. At Burr, we also believe that summer literacy serves a loftier goal. That is, it helps students build their reading and writing lives, and definitely, helps them engage more thoughtfully with the world around them.

In terms of summer reading, we are asking the following from all students at Burr:

* Please return the Governor’s Reading Challenge form to your homeroom during the first week of school. Our goal is to get 100% participation. We have included a hard copy in this packet, but the link to the form is <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320322> . (This link is also attached to Burr’s website.) Please take note of the amount of slots on the challenge sheet (25). Older students should read at least three books during the summer while younger students may read substantially more.
* Be familiar enough with one book to write or reflect about it in early September. Students will need to bring the book to school to complete the task.

We are also asking students to write this summer. Ideas they can pursue include continuing to write in their writer’s notebook, writing letters or postcards to family and friends, creating drawings or comics that integrate pictures and text, convincing others of their thinking through opinion pieces, and giving gifts of writing to others. As always, thank you so much for your support. Have a wonderfully literate summer!

Sincerely,

Jason Bluestein

Gail Felberbaum

Lisa Henkel