



Dear Rising Grade 3 Students:

Welcome to Grade 3! We hope that after a restful summer vacation you will be eager and ready for the delights and challenges of the new school year. The purpose of this letter is to describe our expectations for your summer reading. Keeping your “reading muscles” strong and limber is very important. Therefore, we expect that you will read every day for twenty to thirty minutes in order to improve your fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—the BIG THREE ingredients of reading.

On the St. Patrick’s website (www.stpatsdc.org), you and your parents will find a suggested summer reading list for rising Grade 3 students. We have also posted on the website a Reading Log on which to record your summer reading. Your goal is to read at least five to seven books over the summer and to record them on the list. Of course, you may read more.

Also, all Grade 3 students have one required reading book, *Jake Drake Bully Buster* by Andrew Clements. This book has several themes or “big ideas” that we will explore during the Grade 3 year. Without telling you what they are, we would like you to think about what the important themes or ideas are in the book. We also would like you to think about how the main character Jake changes throughout the story. When you come back to school in September, we will discuss the book together, focusing on these two important story elements—character and theme. We will also discuss other story elements such as setting, plot, and movement through time.

We hope you have a wonderful, adventure-filled summer. We look forward to greeting you in the fall, hearing about your adventures, and learning about you as a reader! Don’t forget to relax and read each and every day!

Sincerely,

The Grade 3 Team