

# PREVENTING THE “SUMMER SLIDE” AT THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Although it seemed for a while like the day would never come, soon the school bells will toll for the last time and summer break will be upon us. Kids across the County are looking forward to days spent at the pool or beach, vacations, summer jobs and sleeping in. The Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) would like to add “reading for pleasure” to that list of summer activities.

The American Library Association cites numerous studies that indicate that students who read recreationally out-perform those who don't. There are also indications that summer reading loss is cumulative. Children don't “catch up” in the fall, because the other children are moving ahead with their skills.

It's no surprise that kids of all ages read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests. Educational experts stress that it is important that students, especially middle and high school kids, read about topics that resonate with them socially – materials related to movies and books that are popular with their friends.

This free, voluntary reading is essential to helping students become better readers, writers and spellers.

Reading just four or five books over the summer

can have a significant impact for middle schoolers and other students. Self-selection of reading materials also is an extremely important factor in motivating struggling readers, and is a key component for AACPL's Summer Reading Club. Library programs encourage kids to use alternate formats such as magazines, recorded books, graphic novels and material on the Internet.

The Anne Arundel County Public Library's Summer Reading Club has components for all ages – including adults. For preschool and elementary ages there are programs that feature magic, music, the science of bubbles and undersea creatures. Middle school students can see a real moon rock and make their own lunar rover. Teens can create a book trailer of a book that sparked their interest – and be eligible for prizes. Adults can get in on the fun by submitting photos of themselves and their library cards while on their summer travels. And everyone can enter to win tickets to see the Orioles at Camden Yards.

Visit any of the 15 County Libraries or go to [www.aacpl.net](http://www.aacpl.net) for all the details. Because the only slide we want any children to experience this summer is the one that makes them go *Wheeeeeeeeee!*



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[www.aacpl.net](http://www.aacpl.net) • 410.222.7371