Avoiding the "Summer Slide" - what you can do to help your child maintain the reading skills they have learned during the school year.

As students and their families approach summer break, they may not be thinking about what they can do to keep their reading skills up to par during the three months they are away from school. The "Summer Slide", however, will be on classroom teachers' minds, as they hope that their students don't lose skills or slip out of the practice of daily reading that was developed during the school year.

Fortunately, there are some simple things parents can do to help avoid the regression of skills. Encouraging children to read on a daily basis is all that it will take to avoid the slide backwards and to help them start the next school year where they finished off the last.

1. The Neenah Public Library and Neenah Public School Libraries both have a summer reading program that is easy to participate in. Students can earn prizes by keeping track of books that they have read. See the link to the public library for more information about programs they have during the summer as well. Elementary schools throughout the district are open during Summer School hours as well.

http://www.neenahlibrary.org/kids

2. For information about books that would be appropriate for your child to read, you can use the Scholastic Book Wizard website to use a "Book Alike" search. Your child can enter a book that they recently enjoyed reading independently and find others like it based on similar reading levels or interest topic.

http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/

3. A quick internet search using the keywords "summer reading list" with a grade level will provide you with many lists created by teacher organizations, libraries, and other interested groups if your child still isn't sure what they want to read. This is another great way for kids to find books that they will be engaged in.

4. Finally, kids model what they see at home. Encourage them to read by reading yourself.

Enjoy your summer! See you in September!