

## Oregon summer reading certificates help keep kids learning over vacation

by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources

SALEM, Ore. — Summer is an important time for kids to play, go on vacation, and spend time with their friends and family. But research shows that students who read books during the summer do better on reading tests when they go back to school in the fall than students who did not read over vacation.

Kids ages 0-18 who read ten or more books over the summer can get their certificate by presenting a list of the ten books they read to their public librarian, school librarian, teacher, or mailing their list with their name and return address to the Oregon Department of Education, 255 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97310. Kids who listen to audio books or have books read to them also qualify to receive the Oregon Summer Reading Certificates. Oregon Summer Reading Certificates are available from through September 15, 2007.

— Summer reading is important because it reinforces essential language skills that many students might otherwise lose over vacation, said State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo. — If children read over the summer, they will improve their reading speed, comprehension, vocabulary and even their spelling. On top of all the academic benefits, summer reading is fun! —

This year the Oregon Department of Education, Oregon State Library, and Oregon Library Association have coordinated their efforts to provide a joint Oregon Summer Reading Certificate with funding from the Oregon Education Association.

— We are very excited about this new partnership that will motivate more students to keep up their reading skills over the summer, said Jim Schepke, State Librarian.

This effort signifies the commitment of schools and libraries to the education of Oregon's youth. Ron Fairchild from the Center for Summer Learning says "When schools, families, and the community work together to support education, children tend to enjoy learning more and do better in school."

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