

Catch the Summer Reading BUZZ!

Fun Reading and Writing Activities

... for the end of the school year!

Create a Wild Things Smoothie!

To celebrate the upcoming movie-release of *Where the Wild Things Are*, read the book to your students. Explain to them that the class is going to create a drink for their own 'wild rumpus'. Create a list of tropical fruits on the board, ask children to vote on their favourite kinds, and then write your own class recipe! As a final treat bring in ice and a blender, then ask students to bring along a piece of fruit or fruit juice and enjoy sipping some smoothies with your class. As a guide, refer to the sample recipe below.

- 3 cups of ice cubes
- 1½ cups pineapple pieces
- 1 cup fruit juice
- 1 banana
- 1 cup vanilla yoghurt

Coloured Ice Painting

On a hot summer afternoon, why not take your class outside to paint on the concrete with ice? Fill two or three ice-cube trays with warm water. Place a teaspoon of powdered tempera paint into each section and stir with a wooden craft-stick until dissolved. Leave a stick sitting in each section to form a handle to paint with, once the ice cubes are frozen (please note that these sticks do not need to remain upright). Place carefully in the freezer overnight. Discuss what ice is made from with your students, and predict what will happen when the ice touches the warm concrete. Spread a long sheet of butcher's paper over the concrete, and allow students to write their names onto the paper and draw a summer picture. Create different-coloured ice cubes to encourage students to explore how colours blend.

MEGA Treasure Hunt Madness!

Few things get children excited more than the prospect of following a treasure map ... especially when they suspect the treasure may be edible! Download the *Treasure Hunt Kit* from the Teacher Toolkit. In the kit you will find a reproducible jigsaw with nine pieces. Each piece has a number on one side, and part of a morse code message on the other. In order to receive each piece of the jigsaw treasure map, students need to complete a page of investigation tasks. Follow the directions in the kit to prepare for the treasure hunt. This could easily be run as a 'final week challenge', completing one or two tasks per day, with the treasure being found on the last day of school.

Books and a Beach Towel!

The final week of school can be a challenging time to inspire students. Why not send home an invitation for students to bring a beach towel to school and two books for a Reading Picnic? One book should be something they would like to read for half an hour (lying on their beach towel in a shady spot in the playground), and the other book should be one they think other students in the class would like to read over the summer holidays. After the Reading Picnic, ask students one at a time to hold their book up and give a one-minute 'book rap' about their selection, and reasons why other students should read it. Ask a student to record each of the book titles and authors, then compile these into a reproducible sheet to send home entitled '6R's Recommended Reads for This Summer'.