

***Where excellence becomes tradition***

***503 Lake Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223, Tel. (718) 333-0300***

“TV. If kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they'll have with twenty- six. Open your child's imagination. Open a book.” ~Author Unknown

Dear Parents,

Let me begin by saying **THANK YOU** for going above and beyond this school year to enable our children to read and learn remotely. We understand that it wasn’t easy for you, as it wasn’t easy for our children, or anyone of us, but **WE DID IT**, and it wouldn’t be possible without your help, support, and patience. As you know, the summer months are upon us, and while we are all looking forward to the warm, relaxing summer days, we need to ensure that our students are doing their best to retain the reading skills they acquired in the course of this school year.

To ensure a smooth transition into the next school year and to avoid the inevitable summer slide, we introduce **Epic Free**. Starting July 1, all families who already signed up for Remote Student Access will be able to enjoy a brand new service, **Epic Free**. If you haven’t signed up yet, you have until June 29, 2020, to do so. If, for whatever reason, you can’t find the initial invite from your English Teacher, please, reach out to her/him via email ASAP so she/he can send you a new invitation.

**Free Epic** will include:

* 2 hours of weekly free reading per student (time resets every Monday)
* A limited selection of high-quality educational books, both fiction and nonfiction (including Read-To-Me books)

Those students that are already using Remote Student Access, there will be no change to how they log in today. Parents should visit **getepic.com/sign-in** and enter the same parent email and password that was used to set up their Parent accounts.

In addition to the free **Epic Free**, please find the suggested summer reading lists below.

The Big Apple Academy’s English Language Arts curriculum is fully aligned to the Common Core curriculum, and adhering to the following reading list will facilitate your child’s continued transition to these standards. Please note that it is imperative that our children enjoy reading; therefore, if the books from Epic Free or the suggested list is not to your child’s liking or if he or she chooses to read from the home library or from another educational reading platform that is absolutely fine. The goal is to have our children read as much as possible and to learn to love and enjoy reading.

Please note that we are not specifying how many books should be read because we know that the more your child will read this summer, the greater will be his/her success in the next school year. However, we do suggest that each student has to have no less than 40 logged entries during the two months of summer vacation. Therefore, we ask you to help us and encourage your child to read as much as possible. Attached to this letter, you will find a READING LOG, which MUST be maintained on a daily basis. For every day that your child reads, a log entry must be made to designate the specific number of pages your child reads on any certain day. Logging in a book after it had been completed, does not show us the progress and pace at which your child read. **Your child will be required to submit his/her reading log on the first day of school, and that is going to make 10% of your child’s 1st Term grade.**

Have a happy and healthy and relaxing summer!

Happy readings!

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**Suggested Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 1**

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| **Novels and /or Short Stories** | **Poetry** | **Informational Texts** |
| Minarik, Else Holmelund.  *Little Bear* | Rossetti, Christina  “Mix a Pancake” | Bulla, Clyde Robert.  *A Tree Is a Plant* |
| Eastman, P.D.  *Are You My Mother?* | Fyleman, Rose  “Singing-Time” | Aliki,  *My Five Senses* |
| Seuss, Dr.  *Green Eggs and Ham* | Milne, A.A.  “Halfway Down” | Hurd, Edith Thacher.  *Starfish* |
| Lopshire, Robert.  *Put Me in the Zoo* | Chute, Marchette  “Drinking Fountain” | Crews, Donald.  *Truck* |
| Lobel, Arnold.  *Frog and Toad Together* | Hughes, Langston  “Poem” | Hoban, Tana.  *I Read Signs* |
| Lobel, Arnold.  *Owl at Home* | Ciardi, John  “Wouldn’t You?” | Reid, Mary Ebeltoft.  *Let’s Find Out About Ice Cream* |
| DePaola, Tomie.  *Pancakes for Breakfast* | Wright, Richard  “Laughing Boy” | “Garden Helpers.” National Geographic Young Explorers |
| Arnold, Tedd.  *Hi! Fly Guy* | Greenfield, Eloise  “By Myself” | “Wind Power.” National Geographic Young Explorers |
| Baum, L. Frank  *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* | Langstaff, John.  *Over in the Meadow* | Provensen, Alice and Martin  *The Year at Maple Hill Farm* |
| Wilder, Laura Ingalls.  *Little House in the Big Woods* | Lear, Edward  “The Owl and the Pussycat.” | Gibbons, Gail.  *Fire! Fire!* |
| Atwater, Richard and Florence  *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* | Hughes, Langston.  “April Rain Song” | Dorros, Arthur.  *Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean* |
| Jansson, Tove.  *Finn Family Moomintroll* | Moss, Lloyd.  *Zin! Zin! ZIn! A Violin* | Llewellyn, Claire.  *Earthworms* |
| Haley, Gail E.  *A Story, A Story* |  | Thomson, Sarh L.  *Amazing Whales!* |
| Bang, Molly.  *The Paper Crane* |  | Hodgkins, Fran and True Kelley.  *How People Learned to Fly* |

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