

May 2015



Read MOre, Missouri!

In March, students and educators around the state celebrated Missouri School Read-In Day. This annual celebration is an opportunity for kids to spend extra time with their favorite books. I was fortunate to participate this year by reading to elementary children in Jefferson City. It was a wonderful morning filled with books and laughter.

As we transition toward the end of the school year, we want to make sure that reading is part of the summer schedule for students. Children will be busy playing outside and spending quality time with family and friends. However, three months away from school can be difficult. Studies show that during the summer, students can lose up to a month's worth of learning from the previous school year. Some fall even further behind. We call this loss of learning the "summer slide."

In order to help counteract the "summer slide," Missouri is highlighting a reading program, "Read MOre, Missouri!" The program is a statewide summer reading challenge designed to keep children engaged in reading while outside of school. This is a great chance for students to continue work on literacy skills, spend time at the library or just enjoy a good book. For more information about "Read MOre, Missouri!" please visit our website.



Before school dismisses for the summer, I ask that you spread the word, and encourage everyone to pick up their favorite book. Kids need time to be kids. They need to be outdoors playing and having fun with family and friends. But make sure those plans also include a few minutes each day with a favorite book. The simple act of reading can greatly influence your child's academic success.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Thank you for your support of Missouri's children.

Margie Vandeven