



Dear Ossining Families:

As the school year winds down and summer approaches, it is important to remember that reading can't end when the school year does—in fact, keeping kids reading through the summer months has a significant positive impact on their future academic lives.

Research has shown that children can lose academic skills during the summer break – this is often referred to as the “summer slide”. Children can lose two months or more of academic gains in that time, setting them back dramatically in September. These losses accumulate over the years, causing an even wider achievement gap, which could be devastating and even affect a student’s post-graduation plans.

Luckily, research has also shown that children who participate in organized and high-quality summer programs experience less learning loss over the summer, better preparing them for school in the fall. The Ossining Public Library is proud to offer programs all summer long that are high-quality, free of charge, and offer children opportunities for reading and enrichment to help Ossining students avoid the summer slide and thrive during the new school year.

The entire community is committed to ensuring that children throughout Ossining keep reading and stay engaged during the summer and head back to school in September primed for a year of academic success. The library is thrilled to be partnering with the Ossining Union Free School District, the Ossining Recreation Department, the Town of Ossining, the Village of Ossining, JCY Westchester Community Partners and the Open Door this year with a single mission: to keep children reading all summer long. Help us celebrate our community campaign, Ossining Loves to Read.

And for those children who can't come to the library, the library will come to them: we will be making appearances at town camps, summer schools, and summer events throughout the community to put books in the hands of young readers.

To learn more about our summer reading programs for children (through grade 6) and teens (grades 7-12), please visit the library, see our website at [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org), and follow our Facebook page for news and events. We will celebrate the efforts of our summer readers by raffling off prizes at the end of the summer. Our community partners have generously donated bicycles, technology, and other prizes. We hope to see you at the library – or around town – this summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen LaRocca-Fels".

Karen LaRocca-Fels  
Library Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond Sanchez".

Raymond Sanchez  
Superintendent of Schools