

City of SAND SPRINGS

PO BOX 338 – 100 EAST BROADWAY STREET – SAND SPRINGS, OKLAHOMA 74063-0338 (918) 246-2500 – FAX (918) 245-7101

Dear Mayor,

A study by Harris Cooper, "Summer Learning Loss: The Problem and Some Solutions," reveals that students experience learning loss each summer, equaling about one month on a grade-level equivalent scale. Over time these losses add up to create a significant learning gap.

The children of our communities will soon have the opportunity to continue expanding their knowledge during Tulsa City-County Library's children's and teen summer reading programs. The program begins May 22 and continues through July 31.

To boost community support, we are asking each the mayor's in Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Collinsville, Sand Springs, Glenpool, Jenks, Bixby, Sperry and Skiatook to join the summer reading fun. When families see an elected official endorse an issue, they respond to the message.

This is the third year of the Summer Reading Program Mayoral Challenge, which challenges a community to have the highest number completions. Last year, Collinsville won...in 2008 Sand Springs was the victor. The winning community receives a special plaque to display for the year, as well as bragging rights for earning the distinction as a community of active readers.

In 2009, more than 44,000 children and teens signed up for the summer reading program. More than 23,000 completed the program by reading six or more books. In all, summer readers read more than 366,000 books last year!

The children's program is titled "Make a Splash: Read!" and the teen program is "Make Waves at Your Library." To complete the program, children must read eight books and visit the library four times, while teens must read six books. Upon completion, children receive a medal of achievement and a coupon book for free entertainment. Teens receive a water bottle along with coupons for free entertainment. Both groups have an opportunity to win prizes, like \$100 gift cards and bicycles, at the end-of-summer drawing.

The program offers excellent opportunities for families to visit the library and learn together. Free performances are available at different times during the summer at all libraries. From cultural presentations and wild animal visits to live music and storytelling, children of all ages can find a subject to explore deeper.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Robert "Bob" Walker

Mayor