



To: Charles Glaes, Superintendent  
Vicksburg Community Schools Board of Education

From: Elementary Summer School Staff

October 10, 2011

#### 2011 Camp Wanna Read Update

Vicksburg Community Schools has sustained our vital summer school program for the past 15 years that supports at risk students in each elementary building. The program has evolved over time, beginning with Sunshine Summer Academy which was located at the Strong School and Outdoor Education Center. In the past several years we have intentionally aligned summer school using the philosophy of our BK-5 Balanced Literacy Components that support early grades.

Our camp began on June 20th and ended on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The summer school schedule ran on a 6-week rolling schedule, meeting Monday through Thursday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Indian Lake Elementary. This year we had 42 students attending with attendance.

Eighty-five minutes daily of reading instruction in a small group, using research based programs and leveled materials. Our four blocks of reading instruction included sight words, fluency, phonics, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. This year we implemented Accelerated Reader to increase student's motivation to read, using this online testing program. Literacy Enrichment time included arts and crafts, computers, and outdoor recreation. Maintaining and supporting the reading for those students who attend summer school is our main goal. Innovative teaching strategies kept students engaged and enthused about reading during the summer months. During the program's "off" weeks, students were encouraged to read at home and provided a calendar of activities to complete and return.

The goals of the program still remain focused on providing experiences that promote self-worth, confidence, connecting with literacy, and fun group interaction. Pre and post tests have gleaned that these students either maintained or improved their skills.

Sincerely,

The Summer School Staff