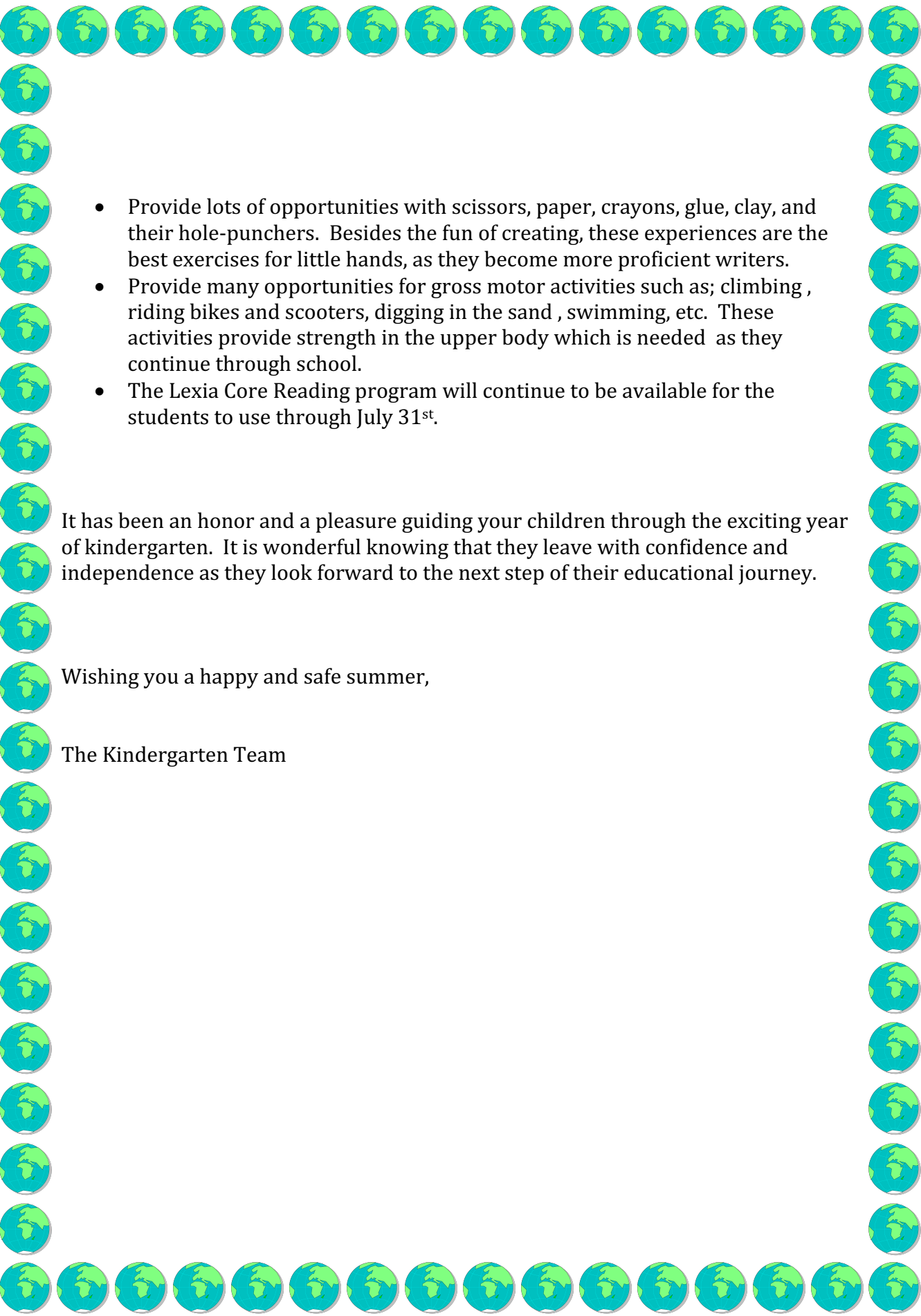


A decorative border of small globe icons, each showing a different view of the Earth, surrounds the text. The globes are arranged in a rectangular frame with one globe at each corner and a row of globes along each side.

Dear Parents,

Frequently parents ask, "What can we do over the summer to help our children maintain the skills they acquired in kindergarten?" Here are a few suggestions:

- Visit the library, bookstores, or online resources to look for favorite or new books to enjoy together. Remember that children this age typically love non-fiction as well as fiction.
- Read to your child **EVERYDAY**. Research shows over and over that the only practices that has been shown to always make a difference in a child's success in reading is being read to. Always read the story through without interruption. Developing and supporting the love of stories and acquiring information from print are the most powerful. Talk about the stories or the facts. Ask open-ended questions like "What do you think will happen next?" or "What would you do if you were in this story?" You can also ask about the setting, the characters, or the sequence of events.
- Motivational tools included in the summer packet are a recommendation list of books you can read to your child this summer and a BINGO board to have fun reading a variety of texts with your child over the summer.
- Their word banks will come home with a letter attached that includes suggestions for activities you could do with their words. Make up some games to play and practice the words with them.
- Offer lots of opportunities for writing. Your children could make shopping or reminder lists for you. **PLEASE DO NOT CORRECT THEIR SPELLING**. If you are asked how to spell something, sound out the words with them and ask your child to write the sounds he or she hears. Have them keep a summer journal where they can write about trips, fun experiences, or just record their thought for the day. They could draw a picture and write about it, maybe even mail it to a friend or a relative. Children also enjoy making their own greeting cards or creating special books about their favorite things. Write notes to your children. These may be a little 'thinking of you, missing you, love you' note in a packed lunch or a question to start the day taped to the bathroom mirror. Help read the note together if your child has difficulty with it.
- Play number games. Make up number stories and have them figure them out using manipulatives. Have them tell you a number story. Ex: Many commercially made games have math components to them. Make up fun counting games by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s.

- 
- Provide lots of opportunities with scissors, paper, crayons, glue, clay, and their hole-punchers. Besides the fun of creating, these experiences are the best exercises for little hands, as they become more proficient writers.
 - Provide many opportunities for gross motor activities such as; climbing , riding bikes and scooters, digging in the sand , swimming, etc. These activities provide strength in the upper body which is needed as they continue through school.
 - The Lexia Core Reading program will continue to be available for the students to use through July 31st.

It has been an honor and a pleasure guiding your children through the exciting year of kindergarten. It is wonderful knowing that they leave with confidence and independence as they look forward to the next step of their educational journey.

Wishing you a happy and safe summer,

The Kindergarten Team