Dear Incoming Kindergarten, First & Second Grade Families,   June 2017

I am writing to you in regards to our mandatory Summer Keyboarding program. It is imperative that each student practices and maintains this skill over the summer months, as it may be necessary for each student to have the ability to take their Terra Nova tests beginning in Third Grade using a keyboard, and not a pencil and paper. We are starting early to introduce keyboarding to our students so there will be a natural progression of skills and they will be ready for online assessments in Third Grade if necessary.

Our incoming students in Grades K to 2 can use the free web-based typing program called: Dance Mat Typing at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/.

Here the students will begin at Level 1 and can complete all 12 lessons in all four levels. There are also worksheets that can be printed out for a supplementary study of the keys.

Additional websites they can use to learn the position of the keys are:

http://www.abcya.com/keyboard.htm

http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding_practice.htm

http://www.abcya.com/jump_key.htm

http://www.abcya.com/kids_typing_game.htm

http://www.abcya.com/cup_stack_typing_game.htm.

http://www.abcya.com/typing_rocket_junior.htm

Thank you for your cooperation in making sure that all of our students are well-prepared for the new online assessments by practicing this very important 21st Century skill of keyboarding. I am working during the summer, so please feel free to e-mail me at dknox@staugustinenj.org with any problems or concerns with any of the typing programs I have recommended.

Have a wonderful summer,
Mrs. D. Knox
Computer Teacher

"We believe that keyboarding and online communication skills are fundamental components of literacy in the 21st Century. Digital Literacy advocates praised The ELA Common Core State Standards for addressing the importance of keyboarding fluency in elementary schools. Now, with the new PARCC exams on the horizon, students will be assessed on their ability to write using a keyboard."