

May 19, 2016

Dear Parents,

In our ongoing pursuit of academic excellence, this summer we will be instituting a summer reading program. Here's how the program will work: Students entering grades 3-8 choose any two books from their reading list and complete a book report for each. The reading list and book report form will be on-line. Teachers from each grade level will also be sending home the list. With the ability to surf the internet to find almost anything, we tried to make our book report form less factual and more in-depth as an evaluation tool as to your child's interaction with the story.

On the first day of school, August 24, students will turn in their book reports to their teacher. These two reports earn them the privilege to participate in a movie on Friday afternoon, August 26. The movie will be one of the books from the list. Book reports will not be accepted after the 24th. Consider bringing them on Fee Day (August 18) so nothing is forgotten on the first day of school.

A team of teachers helped me choose the books. We tried to choose classics that we believed every child should be familiar with but may not necessarily choose on their own. Reading levels were a bit trickier to determine for all children. Therefore, if the groupings of books are too hard, please feel free to read the books with your child or get the book on tape and listen to it together following along in the book. After all, what's really important is that our students are engaged with texts over the summer. In fact, feel free to read all the books on your child's given list because the best way to get better at reading is to read!

For our younger students, we will continue the minutes read program that our primary teachers designed last year. Students earn a movie based upon the number of minutes they read rather than a particular number of books. More information about this will be coming home with your child's teacher.

"There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book." Our hope is that your children will consider these books among their favorites when they look back on their grade school days.

In addition, we don't want our students to lose the ground they have made in memorizing basic math facts. Therefore, we are offering an incentive for students who complete 20 log ins for Xtramath over the summer. That's 2-3 log ins per week. Students who accomplish this goal will be rewarded with an ice cream treat to accompany their movie on the 26th. We will also share some math websites with you in the next few weeks that your children may enjoy.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Forbes