

## Plant a seed...READ!

June 2009

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer is a great time for kids to read. With no school and no homework, there are usually plenty of extra hours to fill. Encourage your child to fill those hours with reading. Studies have shown that children who read during their summer vacation retain more of what they have learned throughout the school year and are better prepared for that first day of school in the fall. A love of reading will provide a lifetime of pleasure and learning.

You can encourage children to become avid summer readers by giving them lots of reading choices. Provide books, magazines, and newspapers. Have them read silently or aloud to you or to a brother or sister. Read while your child reads to make it a fun family activity. Plan weekly trips to your public library to select new books and to participate in their programs.

This year's summer reading program is called **Plant a Seed ... and Read**. With so much literature available on so many topics, I encourage you students to read books from a variety of genres.

All students entering Kindergarten through Eighth grade are strongly urged to participate in the summer reading program. By reading over the summer, the students will keep their reading skills sharp and nourish a healthy pastime.

This packet contains a list of suggested authors for each elementary grade cluster, the required books for students entering the Fourth through Eighth grades, a reading card on which the students in grades Kindergarten through Five can record their titles, and the writing assignments for the

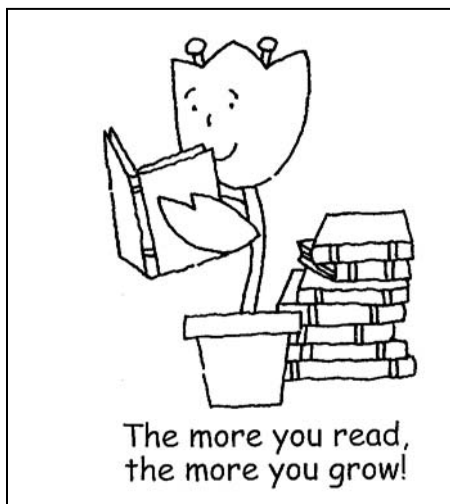
required reading for students entering grades Four through Eight. Again this year, students entering grades Five through Eight can pick their required book(s) from a short list of titles.

I would recommend that students who do not know how to read be read to for at least fifteen minutes a day. This will provide you with great quiet time together, while reinforcing their developing language and reading skills. For all of you readers, I would recommend reading a half hour to an hour every day.

During the first week of school, all students should turn in their summer reading written assignments and/or cards/lists. Acknowledgements will be given to all who participate.

Remember:

- Students must read books on their reading level.
- A parent/guardian must sign the reading card.
- Students entering Grades Four through Eight must read the required title(s) and complete the written assignments.
- Please, color the reading card as they will be displayed outside the Library.
- This summer reading packet is available on the school's website.



Have a wonderful summer  
full of fun, sun and  
reading!

Mrs. Buckley, Librarian

**St. Bridget School 2009 Summer Reading List  
Students Entering Grade 6**

**Students must read two (2) of the following titles**

**The Tale of Despereaux, by Kate DiCamillo (Fairy Tale)**

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

**The Fire Thief, by Terry Deary (Mythology/Fantasy)**

Retelling of the tale of Prometheus, in which Prometheus becomes a time-traveler in order to escape the wrath of the gods, and befriends a Victorian orphan.

**The Great Gilly Hopkins, by Katherine Paterson (Realistic fiction).**

At eleven, Gilly is nobody's real kid. If only she could find her beautiful mother, Courtney, and live with her instead of in the ugly foster home where she has just been placed! How could she, the great Gilly Hopkins, known throughout the county for her brilliance and unmanageability, be expected to tolerate Maime Trotter, the fat, nearly illiterate widow who is now her guardian? Or for that matter, the freaky seven-year-old boy and the shrunken blind black man who are also considered part of the bizarre "family"? Even cool Miss Harris, her teacher, is a shock to her. Gutsy Gilly is both poignant and comic as, behind her best barracuda smile, she schemes against them and everyone else who tries to be friendly. The reader will cheer for her as she copes with the longings and terrors of always being a foster child.

**Absolutley Normal Chaos, by Sharon Creech (Realistic fiction)**

Mary Lou Finney is less than excited about her assignment to keep a journal over the summer. Boring! Then cousin Carl Ray comes to stay with her family, and what starts out as the dull dog days of summer quickly turns into the wildest roller coaster ride of all time.

How was Mary Lou suppose to know what would happen with Carl Ray and the ring? Or with her boy-crazy best friend Beth Ann? Or with (*sigh*) the permanently pink Alex Cheevey? Suddenly a boring school project becomes a record of the most exciting, incredible, *unbelievable* summer of Mary Lou's life.

But what if her teacher actually does read her journal?

**Riding Freedom, by Pam Munzo Ryan (Historical Fiction)**

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.

**Summer 2009 Reading Assignments for Grades 6**

Read two novels from the list of required summer reading titles.

**Novel #1 – Book Report**

For one of the novels, write a *two-page book report, typed, double-spaced*

- Report FCA's:
1. Format: Two pages (no more), typed, double-spaced (5 points)
  2. Content: Includes an introductory paragraph, summary of 2-3 paragraphs, and concluding paragraph (60 points)
  3. Mechanics: Complete sentences and no spelling errors (10)

Your report should have a cover that is illustrated with a favorite scene from the book.

- Cover FCA's:
1. Title and author are on the cover (5 points)
  2. Colorful illustration (10 points)
  3. Neat, detailed work (i.e., effort is apparent) (10 points)

### **Novel #2 – Point of View**

For the second novel, choose a character that is not the main character and retell an important scene in the story from his or her point of view. Create an illustration to go with the retelling.

- FCA's:
1. The retelling has a beginning, middle, and ending
  2. The writing is typed, 1-2 pages, double-spaced
  3. Illustration is neat, detailed, and colorful (may be on paper or poster board)

### **Other Assessment:**

During the first week of school, students should be prepared to discuss and be assessed on the two novels they have read. Study questions for each 6<sup>th</sup> grade novel will be provided on Mrs. Trombino's TeacherWeb site. You can link to the TeacherWeb through the Parent Resources page on St. Bridget School's website.

## **Summer 2009 Language Arts Assignments**

1. Write a letter to Mrs. Trombino using a friendly letter format. In your letter, please tell about yourself and your summer activities. Please include a return address on the envelope, and mail by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mail your letter to Mrs. Trombino, c/o St. Bridget School, 832 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA 01702.
2. Grammar and Mechanics Practice – Complete the worksheets in the Grammar and Mechanics Packet. These are skills that you need to know when you come into 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This packet is due on the first day of school.

Note: If you choose to do any extra practice work in grammar and mechanics over the summer, please bring it in to show your teacher on the first day of school.