

## 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

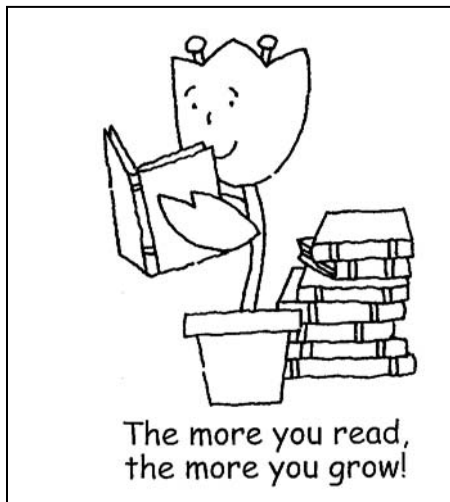
required reading for students entering grades Four through Eight. Again this year, students entering grades Five through Eight can pick their required book(s) from a short list of titles.

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 7**

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

**A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass (Realistic fiction)**

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

**The Shadow Club, by Neal Shusterman (Realistic fiction)**

For Jared and Cheryl, nothing is worse than coming in second. Their idea to form a club of second-best kids seems harmless at first. But when the Shadow Club members start playing anonymous practical jokes on each other's rivals, things quickly spiral out of control, and innocent people get hurt.

**The Egypt Game, by Zilpha Snyder (Fiction)**

**Newbery honor book**

The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they'll have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard behind the A-Z Antiques and Curio Shop, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians instead of two. After school and on weekends they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game, until strange things begin happening to the players. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?

**Shakespeare's Secret, by Elise Broach (Mystery)**

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

**Iron Thunder, by Avi (Historical fiction)**

Thirteen-year-old Tom Carroll takes his place as head of the family after his father dies fighting for the Union; but his job at the local ironworks, where he helps build an iron ship for the Union army, and his loyalty come into question when he is approached by Confederate spies to sell secrets about the ship to the South.

**Summer 2009 Reading Assignments for Grades 7**

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.

- FCAs:
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 7<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 of recommendation to Mrs. Trombino using a business letter format. In your letter, please include: your strengths, skills, hobbies, and a description of you as a student. You may include examples that help the reader understand you and your character better. 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. 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.