

June 2, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns is always looking for ways to be a leader in education and for ways to improve our school and education offered to our students. It is very important for students to continue to read throughout the summer. Studies show students who read increase their achievement score across all subjects. Just as we need to exercise our bodies, we need to do the same for our minds!

This year grades 4 – 8, remember after June 2<sup>nd</sup> they are officially one grade older, will be asked to read specific books over the summer.

*Grade 4* students are asked to select books to read from a list of authors. They are *not* required to read a book from every author but the teachers feel these are all very good authors: **Beverly Cleary, E. B. White, Barbara Park, Lois Lowry, and Matt Christopher.**

Grade 5 -            The Million Dollar Shot – Dan Gutman  
                         Survival Titanic by Duey and Bale

Grade 6 -            Ringer – Jerry Spinelli  
                         Absolutely Normal Chaos – Sharon Creech  
                         Heat – Mike Lupica

## **Seventh Grade Summer Reading Instructions: 2011-2012**

Students are to read the class selection and choose one book from the additional list. (A total of two books)

Notes are to be kept for ***Behind the Mountains*** AND the book you choose from the list about the following:

Characters- (major and minor) Note relationships and major decisions

Setting- Note time and place

Culture- About what other culture do you learn besides your own? What do you learn about this culture?

Conflict- What problems do the characters face? How do they start? How do they end?

Style- How is the story told? Who is the narrator?

Theme- What lessons do the characters learn? What does the author want readers to take away from the experience of reading this book?

Title- Explain the title and where you learn its meaning

Points for notes will be awarded the first week of school with formal assessment to follow.

**Please email [brenda.rayfield@toledostpats.org](mailto:brenda.rayfield@toledostpats.org) with questions.**

### **Selections:**

**Each seventh grade student will read this class selection:**

***Behind the Mountains*** by Edwidge Danticat

Writing in the notebook which her teacher gave her, thirteen-year-old Celiane Espérance tells the story of life with her mother and brother in Haiti as well as her experiences in Brooklyn after the family finally immigrates there to be reunited with her father.

**Each seventh grade student will select and read one of the following:**

***Project Mulberry*** by Linda Sue Park

Julia Song and her friend Patrick would love to win a blue ribbon, maybe even two, at the state fair. They've always done projects together, and they work well as a team. This time, though, they're having trouble coming up with just the right plan. Then Julia's mother offers a suggestion: They can raise silkworms, as she did when she was a girl in Korea.

Patrick thinks it's a great idea. Julia isn't so sure. The club where kids do their projects is all about traditional American stuff, and raising silkworms just doesn't fit in.

OR

***A Wrinkle in Time*** by Madeline L'Engle

*A Wrinkle in Time* is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe. They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

OR

***The Whale Rider*** by Witi Ihmaera

Eight-year-old Kahu fights to prove her love, her leadership, and her destiny. As her beloved grandfather, chief of the Maori tribe of Whangara, New Zealand, struggles to lead in difficult times and to find a male successor, young Kahu is developing a mysterious relationship with whales, particularly the ancient bull whale whose legendary rider was their ancestor.

## **Eighth Grade Summer Reading Instructions: 2011-2012**

Students are to read the class selection and choose one book from the additional list. (A total of two books)

Notes are to be kept for ***The Giver*** AND the book you choose from the list about the following:

Characters- (major and minor) Note relationships and major decisions

Setting- Note time and place

***The Giver*** takes place in a seemingly ideal society. What is it like? What does this society value?

Book from list—about what historical time period do you learn? What do you learn about this time period?

Conflict- What problems do the characters face? How do they start? How do they end?

Style- How is the story told? Who is the narrator?

Theme- What lessons do the characters learn? What does the author want readers to take away from the experience of reading this book?

Title- Explain the title and where you learn its meaning

Points for notes will be awarded the first week of school with formal assessment to follow.

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### **Selections:**

**Each eighth grade student will read this class selection:**

***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry

The story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.

**Each eighth grade student will select and read one of the following:**

***Fever 1793*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious and adventurous, and she has plans of her own.

But the waterfront is abuzz with reports of disease. As the cemeteries fill with fever victims, fear turns to panic, and thousands flee the city. Then tragedy strikes, and Mattie is trapped. Suddenly, her struggle to build a better life must give way to something even more important -- the fight to stay alive.

***Chains*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, become the property of a New York City couple, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

***Countdown*** by Deborah Wiles

Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall.

It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, it only gets worse. Franny doesn't know how to deal with what's going on in the world—no more than she knows how to deal with what's going on with her family and friends.

**HAPPY READING AND HAVE A SAFE AND RELAXING SUMMER**