

June 16, 2010

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 5<sup>th</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  
                      The Tale of Despereaux - Kate DiCamillo

Grade 6 -        6<sup>th</sup> Grade Secrets – Louis Sacher  
                      Absolutely Normal Chaos – Sharon Creech

### Summer Reading List \* Grade 7

Below is the summer reading list for *Grade 7 Language Arts*. Please read the one book noted below before returning to school in August. Students are encouraged to read during the summer, as it enhances literacy skills developed throughout the school year. Reading for enjoyment is a practice that helps children increase their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

Upon returning to school in September, students will be asked to complete a written assignment (or two) and/or a quiz based upon this book below. The best preparation for this assignment is careful reading.

\**Riordan, Rick* The Lightning Thief. Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon. He is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.



**“The more you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”**

**-Dr. Seuss, “I can Read With My Eyes Shut!”**

*Grade 8* students are asked to choose *two of the following books* and be ready for a project that will begin the first day we return to school: **Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust** by Zullo & Bovsun; **Bull Run** by Paul Fleischman; **Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis; **Mary, Bloody Mary** by Carolyn Meyer; **Surviving the Applewhites** by Stephanie Tolan; **Whale Talk** by Chris Crutcher.

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