

Cedar Drive Middle School

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Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

June 3, 2016

Summer is a great time for reading! Studies reveal that students can drop up to two to three reading levels when they do not read over the summer months. Most people have extra time to read, talk to friends about books, and discover new reading adventures. In an effort to maintain or surpass their current reading levels when they enter 6th grade, we are encouraging the students to try to set a goal of reading two books or more over the summer.

Upon return in September, the students will engage in a meaningful activity that will highlight their book of choice.

Assignments

1-Completed Summer Book List: Bring in a typed list of books that you completed reading this summer with your full name, title, and author of each book. No reading logs expected or required.

2-Speed Book Talk Preparation (please type). For ONE of the books you read this summer, create a paragraph that answers the questions below to prepare for the first week of school *Speed Book Talk Activity* in 6th grade.

Preparing for a fiction talk:

In paragraph form, include the following:

- Title & author
- Main character's name
- The character's main problem
- Explain your main character's traits
- Explain a theme/lesson that you learned from this book
- Who would like this book (people who like action, people who like real life problems, people who like to cheer for the underdog in a story, etc.)

Fiction Example:

Wonder was written by R.J. Palacio and the main character is August (also known as Augie). He was a very brave kid because he had a terrible facial deformity, but he found the courage to go to school even though he knew there would be kids who would be mean to him. Augie does get bullied, but read the book to find out what happens to Augie. A theme, or lesson, I learned was that when you have friends in your corner who are not afraid to stand up to bullies, it makes a school a safer place to be. People who like stories about kids their age that deal with issues like bullying and accepting yourself will like this book. It is a feel good book.

Preparing for a non-fiction talk:

In paragraph form, include the following:

- Title & author
- Explain who or what the book was about
- Explain who would most enjoy this book and why
- Explain two very interesting facts you learned and think others should know

Nonfiction Example:

I read *Oh, Yuck (The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty)* by Joy Masoff and as the title states it is an alphabetical list of lots and lots of extremely disgusting stuff. If a person is not afraid to read about some disgusting things, you might like this book or if you want to have some good laughs it's pretty good too. It is a book that you will share facts with your friends and family after reading because it is too interesting not to. Did you know that in some parts of France they eat rats? They only eat rats that live in wine cellars! Gross, don't you think? Also, the average person will eat 33 tons of food, about the size of six elephants, in their lifetime. They will then poop a pile about the size of a car! Find out more grotesque facts when you read this book. You may want to read it on an empty stomach.

In addition, this summer we will be hosting an Achieve 3000 contest. For each Achieve 3000 article that a student earns a 75 or better, their name will be entered into a raffle to win a gift card (one per grade level). The more articles they complete, the more chances they have to win. The contest will run from July 1, 2016-September 2, 2016. Students will be responsible for printing out their Achieve 3000 "raffle ticket" as they complete each article over the summer and the parent will initial. These articles will be verified upon returning to school in September.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Merri Milano.

Sincerely,

The 6th Grade Language Arts Team