

Cedar Drive Middle School

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Dear Seventh Grade Parents,

June 3, 2016

Studies reveal that students can drop up to two to three reading levels when they do not read over the summer months. Summer is a great time for reading! Most people have extra time to read, talk to friends about books, and discover new books. In an effort to maintain or surpass their current reading levels when they enter 8th grade, we are asking the students to read *one non-fiction book and complete the Think-Tac-Toe assignment for one of the following:*

Unbroken: *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand – 1010 Lexile

In May 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific and quickly sank, leaving behind only two survivors bobbing helplessly in the restless seas. One of them was Louis Zamperini, a 26-year-old airman who had overcome a troubled past to become an Olympic athlete. After 47 perilous days adrift on a raft, Zamperini and his companion survivor were rescued by the Japanese navy. He remained a prisoner of war until the end of hostilities. This riveting narrative by the author of *Seabiscuit* is the story of one plucky man. Now ninety-three, Louis Zamperini lives on.

***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi* by Neal Bascomb – 1000 Lexile**

This true story of a group of Jewish men brought together to capture and bring to justice a notorious Nazi war criminal takes place 15 years after the end of WWII. Adolf Eichmann, who had been in charge of eradicating the 725,000 Jews from Hungary and was discovered, living in Argentina, became the target of the Mossad, a new Israeli secret service intelligence agency. Eichmann's capture proved to be a hair-raising maneuver, as the Argentinians were not sympathetic to the cause, and any slight misstep could result in irreparable damage to both this endeavor and to the Israeli government.

***I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai – 830 Lexile**

A MEMOIR BY THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE - "I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday." When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

***Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* – by Michaela DePrince 940 Lexile**

The extraordinary memoir of Michaela DePrince, a young dancer who escaped war-torn Sierra Leone for the rarefied heights of American ballet.

Michaela DePrince was known as girl Number 27 at the orphanage, where she was abandoned at a young age and tormented as a "devil child" for a skin condition that makes her skin appear spotted. But it was at the orphanage that Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life.

***World Without Fish* by Mark Kurlansky – 1230 Lexile**

World Without Fish connects all the dots—biology, economics, evolution, politics, climate, history, culture, food, and nutrition—in a way that kids can really understand. It describes how the fish we most commonly eat, including tuna, salmon, cod, swordfish—even anchovies—could disappear within fifty years, and the domino effect it would have: the oceans teeming with jellyfish and turning pinkish orange from algal blooms, the seabirds disappearing, then reptiles, then mammals. It describes the back-and-forth dynamic of fishermen, who are the original environmentalists, and scientists, who not that long ago considered fish an endless resource. It explains why fish farming is not the answer—and why sustainable fishing is, and how to help return the oceans to their natural ecological balance.

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 8th Grade Language Arts Team

