

June 2009

Dear Dumbarton Parents and Guardians,

In a world offering so many distractions to keep our children away from the printed page, the importance of reading as a key to personal fulfillment and academic success becomes increasingly apparent. Our faculty at Dumbarton is committed to conveying to our students the love of books and the practice of reading, a habit that will last a lifetime.

Therefore, in an ongoing effort to raise the already high standards of our students at DMS, and to meet the need expressed by parents, we are pleased to continue the Dumbarton Summer Reading Program. It is our hope that through reading enjoyable books, our children will become better readers, increase vocabularies, and experience the feeling of being lost in a good book. The summer reading will fulfill the first Language Arts book project requirement which is due October 2. Written note sheet records of summer reading will be accepted from your child from September 1. Your child's first report card will indicate that he or she completed or did not complete the reading requirements.

Attached is a list of possible authors (these are only suggestions; there are many, many fine children's authors) to help you and your child with the selection of books. In addition, the librarian at the Children's Desk at the Towson Library will assist you and your child. The Children's Desk at the Towson Library maintains a notebook in which more detailed title suggestions from Dumbarton and area private schools are available. Please help your child choose a book suitable to his or her reading ability, and one that your child has not already read. We suggest that reading begin over the summer so that students ease into the school year with one assignment already completed!

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| Grade 6 (in August, 2009): | One award-winning or classic fiction book
One non-fiction book (biography acceptable) |
| Grade 7 (in August 2009): | One award-winning or classic fiction book
One science non-fiction book (animals, plants,
human systems, the solar system) |
| Grade 8 (in August, 2009): | One award-winning or classic fiction book
One historical fiction book (American history) |

We thank you in advance for encouraging your child to complete this worthwhile school program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nancy B. Fink
Principal

Mrs. Susan Donkar
Librarian

June 2009

Dear Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Students:

You need to complete a paragraph for each of the books you read in order to provide a record of your summer reading. Please make your reading selections carefully. Choose books and topics that are interesting and enjoyable for you.

Sixth grade requirements:

- One award-winning book or classic book
- One non-fiction book (a biography counts as non-fiction)

Please wait to read Hatchet, The Giver, Strider, Slake's Limbo, Music of the Dolphins, Belle Prater's Boy, Yolonda's Genius, The Shakespeare Stealer, The Iron Ring, Fellowship of the Ring and Esperanza Rising as they are part of or supplemental to the curriculum.

Seventh grade requirements:

- One award-winning book or classic novel
- One science non-fiction on animals, plants, human systems, or the Solar System

Please wait to read, Watership Down, Waiting for the Rain, The Call of the Wild, Out of the Dust, Animal Farm, Seedfolks, Love That Dog, Taming of the Shrew, Maniac Magee, and Diary of a Young Girl: The Anne Frank Story as these books are part of or supplemental to the curriculum.

Eighth grade requirements:

- One award-winning book or classic novel
- One historical fiction novel (American history)

Please do not read A Tale of Two Cities, Fever 1793, Toning the Sweep, A Day No Pigs Would Die, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Midsummer Night's Dream, A Raisin in the Sun, Soldier's Heart, Nothing But the Truth, The Wave, Killer Angels and Farewell to Manzanar as these books are part of or supplemental to the curriculum.

Reading suggestions are on the back of this sheet.

You may duplicate the writing prompt sheets as needed for your own selections and grade level requirements. You must turn in **two** completed writing prompt sheets with parent signature for each one in order to get credit for your reading. Please note that new grade 8 students will use two fiction prompts. Feel free to use the back of the prompt sheets if you need more room. Additional prompt sheets will be available on the counter in Dumbarton's main office if you need extras during the summer.

Title and Author suggestions for Dumbarton Summer Required Reading Program*:

Award Winners (any year): (specific titles available at Public Library)

Newbery Medal and Honor Books

Coretta Scott King Award and Honor books

Black-Eyed Susan award winners or nominees

Maryland Children's Book Council award

Some of Our Favorite Authors:

Alexander, Lloyd	Hinton, S.E.	Peck, Richard
Avi	Hobbs, Will	Pullman, Philip
Bruchac, Joseph	Horowitz, Anthony	Rinaldi, Ann
Byars, Betsy	Jacques, Brian	Rowling, J.K.
Christopher, John	Johnson, Angela	Ryan, Pam Muñoz
Cleary, Beverly	Jones, Diana Wynne	Soto, Gary
Colfer, Eoin	Konigsburg, E.L.	Speare, Elizabeth George
Cooper, Susan	L'Engle, Madeline	Spinelli, Jerry
Creech, Sharon	Lewis, C.S.	Sleator, William
Curtis, Christopher Paul	Lowry, Lois	Taylor, Mildred
DiCamillo, Kate	Myers, Walter Dean	Vande Velde, Vivian
Flake, Sharon	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Voigt, Cynthia
George, Jean Craighead	Park, Linda Sue	White, E.B.
Giff, Patricia Reilly	Paterson, Katherine	Woodson, Jacqueline
Hiaasen, Carl	Paulsen, Gary	Yep, Lawrence

Classic Titles such as:

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Anne of Green Gables

Black Beauty

Black Stallion

The Borrowers

Charlotte's Web

Island of the Blue Dolphins

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Little House series

The Little Prince

Little Women

Misty of Chincoteague

The Phantom Tollbooth

The Secret Garden

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Trumpet of the Swan

Tuck Everlasting

Where the Red Fern Grows

The Wind in the Willows

*See also list of suggestions for specific titles at the Children's Desk of the Towson Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library.