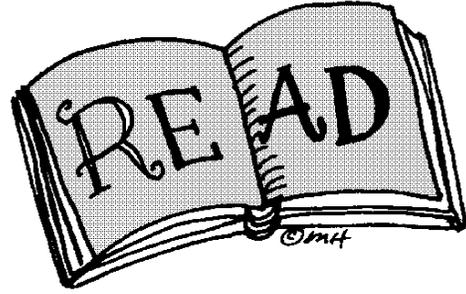


Millburn Middle School  
Summer 2017



Dear Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Millburn Middle School Students and Parents,

Research shows that students who read for pleasure in the summer do better and forget less when they return to school in the fall. The benefits are not just in English/Language Arts class (ELA). Students who don't read over the summer can slide backwards in all subject areas. The summer break offers great opportunities for students, and their families, to help improve reading and writing skills.

**Each incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student should read at least one 2018 Caudill Award nominated book this summer.** There will be a specific assignment for this book when the students return to school in the fall. Students may choose from the following list of books. *Hour of the Bees* by Lindsay Eagar, *I Will Always Write Back* by Martin Ganda, *Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton, *House Arrest* by K. A. Holt, *Listen, Slowly* by Thanhha Lai, *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson, *A night Divided* by Jennifer Nielsen, *The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall, *I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest, *Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar (not appropriate for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders), *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary Schmidt, *Beneath* by Roland Smith, *Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead, *The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan, *Last in a Long Line of Rebels* by Lisa Lewis Tyre (not appropriate for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders),.

This letter is included in the virtual backpack and on the ELA teacher websites. We strongly suggest that parents read the same book as their child and discuss it together over the summer. Students are encouraged to keep a journal or annotate as they read.

We don't stop reading Caudills once the summer is over! All students are encouraged to read at least three Caudill nominated books by February so that they can participate in the state-wide vote for the best book. The Media Center has a reading contest. There are different raffles for students who read five, eight and at fifteen of the twenty. Each goal has a due date. Feel free to start reading towards those goals this summer.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Sincerely,

The Middle School ELA Teachers