

June 18, 2010

Dear Sixth Grade Student,

I would like to welcome you to the Sixth Grade and to the Middle School. This will be a new experience for you. Changing classes and having lockers are just two new experiences. Do not worry. I am here to help you, as well as the rest of the Middle School teachers.

I will be teaching you Math and Religion. Math can be a challenging subject for some people, but I will be there to help, guide and encourage you all the way. With hard work, you can succeed. In Religion, my hopes are that we all grow stronger in our faith as well as learn more about Catholicism.

Your other teachers are: Mrs. Swain – Reading, Spelling and Science

Mrs. DiMuccio – English

Mrs. Kay – Social Studies and Art

Mrs. DeSarro – PE

Mr. Kronenberg – Latin and Computer

Mrs. Burris – Library

For those of you who do not know me, I have been teaching at St. Pius X School since September 1989. I started out as a Second Grade teacher and over the years have accepted different responsibilities. God guide me to this school long ago and continues to guide me in my teaching. I feel privileged and honored to be your teacher and to have you as my student this coming year.

Again, I welcome you to Sixth Grade. Have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. See you in September.

God bless you,

Mrs. Linda Shea

Part “A” Summer Reading

Middle School Reading List GRADES 6,7 & 8 pg. 1

Students in grades 6,7, & 8 are to choose 2 from the following list

***Adventures in Cartooning.* By James Sturm, Andrew Arnold and Alexis Frederick-Frost. Illus. by the authors. First Second, \$12.95 (9781596433694).**

The Magic Cartooning Elf mesmerizes readers with the story of a knight and a princess that also provides step-by-step instruction for creating cartoons.

***An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers.* By Natasha Wing. Illus. by Julia Breckenreid. Holt, \$16.99 (9780805080728).**

In a picture book format, Wing offers simple explanations of the unusual ways that artist Josef Albers used color and shape to open the eyes of the world.

***Anne Frank: Her life in words and pictures from the archives of The Anne Frank House.* By Menno Metselaar and Ruud van der Rol. Roaring Brook, \$19.99 (9781596435469).**

A visual companion to other accounts of Anne Frank’s life is told chiefly through photographs, many published nowhere else, and handwritten excerpts from her actual diary in a well-researched and powerful and compact package.

***Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal.* By Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Carolrhoda, \$17.95 (9780822567646).**

Former slave Bass Reeves, the first black U.S. Marshall, staunchly defended territorial law in the American West through many remarkable deeds. (The 2010 Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner)

***Crow Call.* By Lois Lowry. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. Scholastic, \$16.99 (9780545030359).**

Reunited after serving in the war, a father and youngest daughter begin their journey of reconnection through a hunting shirt, cherry pie, tender conversation, and a crow call.

***The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors.* By Chris Barton. Illus. by Tony Persiani. Charlesbridge, \$18.95 (9781570916731).**

This glowing biography tells of two inventive brothers who worked together from a startling discovery in their basement to a lifetime creating fluorescent colors. (A 2010 Sibert Honor Book.)

***Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea.* By Steve Jenkins. Illus. by the author. Houghton, \$17.00 (9780618966363).**

This irresistible underwater exploration reveals the mysteries of the sea by going deeper and deeper and deeper from top to bottom, viewing little known creatures and encountering spaces where few have ever been.

***Eidi.* By Bodil Bredsdorff. Trans. by Kathryn Mahaffy. Farrar, \$16.99 (9780374312671)**

Feeling displaced by the birth of her half-brother, Eidi leaves her beloved family in Crow Cove and sets out on a journey to discover her independence and talents. (A 2010 Batchelder Honor Book.)

***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate.* By Jacqueline Kelly. Holt, \$16.99 (9780805088410).** Eleven-year-old Calpurnia Virginia Tate and her curmudgeony old grandfather bond over their interest in the evolution of the species on a Texas plantation at the turn of the last century. (A 2010 Newbery Honor Book.)

***A Faraway Island.* By Annika Thor. Trans by Linda Schenck. Delacorte, \$16.99 (9780385736176)**

Two Jewish sisters from Vienna, Austria, are sent by their parents to Sweden to escape the Nazis. (The 2010 Batchelder Award Book.)

***Federico García Lorca.* By Georgina Lázaro. Illus. by Enrique S. Moreiro. Lectorum, \$14.99 (9781933032399)**

Lázaro's lyrical poetry, written in Spanish, evokes the spirit and style of 20th-century poet and playwright, Federico García Lorca (A 2010 Belpré Author Honor Book.)

***The Frog Scientist.* By Pamela S. Turner. Photographs by Andy Comins. Houghton, \$18.00 (9780618717163).**

Tyrone Hayes and his students work to understand frogs so they can save these amphibians from the pesticides that are slowly killing off creatures older than dinosaurs.

***The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews During the Holocaust.* By Karen Gray Ruelle and Deborah Durland DeSaix. Illus. by the authors. Holiday, \$17.95 (9780823421596).**

Powerful illustrations illuminate a little known aspect of WWII resistance: the heroic Muslim effort to orchestrate the escape of Jews who were aggressively pursued by Nazis during the four year occupation of Paris.

***In the Belly of an Ox: the Unexpected Photographic Adventures of Richard and Cherry Kearton.* By Rebecca Bond. Illus. by the author. Houghton, \$16.00 (9780547076751).**

Establishing a new era in nature photography, two brothers spend many weekends finding ingenious ways to photograph bird nests in the nineteenth century English countryside.

***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg.* By Rodman Philbrick. Blue Sky, \$16.99 (9780439668187).**

Homer, an admitted liar and teller of tales, must rescue his brother Harold after Uncle Squinton Leach sells him to the Union Army. (A 2010 Newbery Honor Book.)

***Pharaoh's Boat.* By David L. Weitzman. Illus. by the author. Houghton, \$18.00 (9780547053417).**

Meticulously created, hieroglyphic-like illustrations along with a detailed text reveal the riddle of reconstructing a regal boat commissioned by Cheops, the Pharaoh, to journey into the afterlife.

***River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River.* By Hudson Talbott. Illus. by the author. Putnam, \$17.99 (9780399245213).**

With illustrations that flow along with the text, this book celebrates the river that has played a key role in the settling of the New World, the outcome of the Revolutionary War, and the history of a state and a country.

***The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis.* By Barbara O'Connor. Farrar, \$16.99 (9780374370558).**

Popeye grabs at a chance for adventure and friendship when a boy his age named Elvis rolls into the sleepy town of Fayette.

***The Storm in the Barn.* By Matt Phelan. Illus. by the author. Candlewick, \$24.99 (9780763636180).**

At the stark, dry height of the 1937 Kansas dust bowl, 11-year-old Jack tries to bring back the rain when he challenges a mythical figure in this stirring graphic novel.

***Tsunami!* By Kimiko Kajikawa. Illus. by Ed Young. Philomel, \$16.99 (9780399250064).**

Through deep personal sacrifice, Ojiisan, known as grandfather, saves his village from a tsunami. The tension in this Japanese folktale is heightened by the rich texture of the mixed media illustrations.

***When You Reach Me.* By Rebecca Stead. Random/Wendy Lamb, \$17.99 (9780385737425).**

Twelve-year-old Miranda must unravel a puzzle involving increasingly strange notes warning that someone she knows may die. (The 2010 Newbery Award Winner.)

***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon.* By Grace Lin. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316114271).**

A young Chinese girl, long a believer in her father's fantastic stories, goes on a quest to find the legendary Old Man of the Moon in the hope of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain. (A 2010 Newbery Honor Book.)

***A Whiff of Pine, A Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems.* By Deborah Ruddell Illus. by Joan Rankin. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry, \$16.99 (9781416942115).**

Clever rhyming verse showcases a variety of forest animals throughout the seasons.

***You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!* By Jonah Winter. Illus. by André Carrilho. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9780375837388).**

Sandy Koufax's achievements as a great left-handed pitcher come to life in dramatic and dynamic illustrations coupled with smitherings of alluring facts and figures.

PART 'B' SUMMER READING DIRECTIVES

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING DIRECTIVES GRADES 6, 7 AND 8

Dear Middle School Students,

You have been asked to choose and read two books from the posted reading list during the summer.

Upon your return to school in the fall, you will be given a rubric for the writing of one formal book report and a rubric for one artistic rendition.

Have a safe and happy summer. I'll see you in September with more information.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Swain
Grade 6 Reading
Grades 7 & 8 Literature

Middle School Supply List – GRADES 6, 7 AND 8

All supplies are to be replenished throughout the year as needed. Teachers may require additional supplies as the year progresses.

- 6 inch ruler - standard and metric measurements
- 2 – No. 2 pencils
- 2 blue or black pens and 2 red pens – no gel pens
- Box of crayons – 8-16 count
- Set of 8 colored pencils
- Set of thin and set of conical markers – 8 count
- Black sharpie
- Scissors
- Eraser
- Glue stick
- Small pencil case to hold above supplies
- 2" to 3" inch 3- ring binder
- Set of tabbed dividers
- 8 standard size pocket folders
- 1 – composition notebook for English
- Loose leaf paper – wide rule
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 2 boxes of tissues

* Donation of any plastic utensils for classroom use would be greatly appreciated

*****A STUDENT ASSIGNMENT PLANNER MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE SCHOOL
IN SEPTEMBER AT A COST OF \$5.00 PER STUDENT*****