

Dear Notre Dame Families,

We have some very exciting events coming up at our school involving our Library and I have the pleasure of telling you about them.

As you may have heard by now from your children, the Spring Book Fair will be here Wednesday, May 11th - Friday, May 20th. This Book Fair will have a carnival theme and we are all very excited to decorate the Library and have fun. All of the proceeds from the Book Fair will be staying with our Library to purchase new books and to update our Library a bit. It's very exciting news! Our hours of operation on school days will be 8:30am-4:00pm, except for Friday the 13th.

*** As a special "**Carnival Treat,**" on Friday the 13th, the Book Fair will be open until 6:00pm. We will be making fresh popcorn and will be running several carnival-type games with special prizes & raffles for your families to enjoy. *We certainly hope to see you there!*

Remember, the Book Fair is a great time to pick up summer reading material for your children & for yourself. Also, books always make great presents for loved ones!

Speaking of Summer Reading, we are so excited to tell you about some of the new changes & additions taking place with our Summer Reading Program.

Working along with the educators and professionals at Scholastic, our wonderful teachers here at Notre Dame & I, have come up with some stimulating & fun ways to keep our children reading this summer.

--- Statistics show that children are **91 %** more likely to finish reading a book **that they pick out themselves.**

--- Research has proven that kids who never crack open a book over the Summer break fall behind in reading, while kids who read at least 4 books over the break, maintain their reading scores and even **EXCEL!!!**

One wonderful addition to our Summer Reading Program that already has our children excited is their participation in the **Scholastic "Read For The World Record."** Many of our children have already been assigned private passwords by their teachers for this challenge, while our middle school students are being told and shown how to go on the site and attain passwords for themselves for the challenge. The next step is for our students to go to the website @ Scholastic.com/summer, where they can actually log in the minutes that they are spending reading. After each child logs their minutes for a particular reading session, they will get to see **NOTRE DAME'S** total minutes jump up by the amt of minutes that they have put in! The children are so excited to see that they are making a difference.

This contest started on May 1st and runs through August 31st.

Several classes have already started logging in minutes. *** For the purposes of this challenge, reading minutes being logged in can be minutes from homework assignments, reading being done with adults or family members,

minutes reading your favorite books or magazines, even time spent reading to younger siblings.

The website also has some really cool games and a map of the United States where our kids can check in on the running totals of other schools that are participating. As an added bonus, ***Scholastic publishes the top 20 schools in their yearly WORLD RECORD Book.*** An interesting fact to note is that Florida had more schools in the top 20 than any other state last year. What's even more amazing than that is that the school that came in at **number 19** was an elementary school right here in **Inverness!** I urge you to look at this site with your child and share this wonderful experience with them.

For families that do not have internet access or if access is not available at the time your child is reading (for example - on a vacation), a reading log may be kept in a spiral notebook, and the logged minutes **must** be initialed by an adult. These minutes can then be logged in at a later time when the child does have access or by a teacher when school resumes.

Participation in the "Read For The World's Record" is a *****MANDATORY** part of our Summer Reading Program. It is also an **HONOR** driven program, meaning that minutes being logged in are on an HONOR BASIS.

*****Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 classes logging in the most total minutes when classes resume in the Fall!**

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades, their *mandatory participation* in "Read For The World Record" is their **only** Summer Reading Assignment.

STUDENTS ENTERING 4th - 8th GRADES *MUST also complete 1 of the following 2 options using the books I have listed below:**

1) Write a traditional book report worth up to 100 points. All book reports must include Title, Author, and copyright date. The report should consist of at least four paragraphs, written in full sentences with correct grammar and punctuation. Reports should address main characters, plot or main story ideas, conflict, the conclusion and the students opinion of the book. This assignment is to be typed.

2) The second option will be a project worth up to 100 points. Your child may pick one of the following ideas:

A) Write an alternate ending to the story. Be sure to include a short summary of the story that leads up to the point of your new ending.

B) If your book contained travel as part of it's main theme, make a map and chart the travel of the characters in the story. Be prepared to make a presentation to the class and explain the map and the travels of the characters.

The Following Books are acceptable for STUDENTS ENTERING 4th and 5th grades :

- *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- *The Best School Year Ever* by Barbara Robinson
- *How to Eat Fried Worms* by Thomas Rockwell
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
- *Tales of a Forth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume
- *Encyclopedia Brown* (any book) by Donald Sobol
- *The Cricket in Times Square* by Georgia Seldon
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Curtis
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Summer Ball* by Mike Lupica
- *Holes*
- *My Dog Skip*
- *Because of Winn Dixie*
- *Stuart Little* by E.B. White
- *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADES:

- *The Brooklyn Nine* by Alan Gratz
- *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

- *Joey Pigza Loses Control* by Jack Gantos
- *The Wednesday War* by Gary Schmidt
- *Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief* (or any book in series) by Rick Riordan
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle
- *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Chains* by Laura Halse Anderson
- *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *Life as we Knew it* by Susan Pfeffer
- *Schooled* by Gordon Korman
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Suzak
- *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi
- *What I Saw and How I Lied* by Judy Blundell
- *Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Meyers
- *Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
- *The Road to Paris* by Nikki Grimes
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor
- *The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis

All written assignments must be turned in during the first two weeks of school.

Please Email me at bwilliams@ndischool.org with any questions or concerns you may have as we all try to get acquainted with our exciting and fresh new Summer Reading Program!

Wishing you God's Peace & Blessings,

**Barbara Williams
Library/Media Center**