



Grace and peace , dear parents,

Congratulations to our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes for their movement up to new classes. The closing exercises were beautiful and I thank our teachers for such touching ceremonies. Our eighth grade will bid us farewell after their Graduation on Friday evening. We will miss each of them and wish them well on the next steps of their fabulous journey.

I invite parents of the seventh grade class to a brainstorming session on Monday evening, June 10 at 6:00 PM in the glass meeting room by the Media Center. I invite the 7th grade parents, soon to be 8th grade parents to a meeting where we can start planning next year's events for the graduating class. Thanks in advance for considering your involvement in this part of school life.

Attached to this Wednesday letter is a summer reading list for the students. If we are serious about literacy advancement at SMS, then we have to be serious about daily reading. Students in the early learning and primary grades have to hear a read-aloud at the least once a day. They also need to be handling books and reading independently at least once a day.

Students in the transition (3-5) grades and in the Middle School grades (6-8) should be reading at last one age appropriate novel a week. It would be excellent practice for parents to read the same book and discuss it with their child. Good conversations about books enhances comprehension skills.

On Wednesday, September 18, I will be inviting our Middle School students to a Book Club after school on the book, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor. It will be expected that the students will have already read the book. Delicious snacks will be served. On Wednesday, September 25 I will host a Book Club for the transition grades on *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. Again, it is expected that the book has been read. Again, come to enjoy a great book and delicious snacks.

This year there will be a new addition to our book clubs. I invite parents to a Book Club on the text. *The Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. The club will meet on Monday, September 23 at 6:30 PM in the Media Center. I promise to bring great snacks.

I want to make sure that the students stay sharp with their reasoning skills over the summer as well. We need those skills to heighten our problem solving skills. Play

board games, card games and dice often. Have students do sudoku often. Try games such as Life, Farkel, parchesi, chess, checkers, just to name a few. Students in Middle School should be going on the site, Mathcounts to sharpen problem solving. Unlock the puzzle as a family.

Just a reminder that next Thursday and Friday, the 13th and 14th are both 12:30 dismissal days. Our closing prayer service will be on Friday, June 14th at 11:30. Hope to see you then.

Thanks for all you do to partner with us for best practices for our children.

Eileen Brett
Principal
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