

"Our children are the hope of the future. We need to nurture them carefully. If you teach your children to love to read, you are handing down a special kind of magic to them—a gift that will enrich their lives as nothing else can do."

Bernice E. Cullinan—*Read To Me: Raising Kids Who Love To Read*



Dear Students and Parents:

Reading for enjoyment lasts a lifetime. It profoundly affects your child's academic success and also shapes your child's character. No matter what your child's age, level of reading skill, or current attitude toward books, it's never too late to develop a love of reading. So this summer find a spot under a tree, on a blanket near a pool, or a quiet spot in your house and let the adventures begin!

Students entering the 4<sup>th</sup> grade are required to read a minimum of **three books** over the summer. An explanation of the text requirements, assignments, and due dates are included in this packet. The three required books are:

- Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
- A Summer Reading List Choice
- A Self-Selected Text

To continue to enhance critical thinking and reading skills, research tells us that books are most effectively read and understood when they are discussed while reading them. Thus, we encourage parents to read these selections with their children and engage in lively discussions at the dinner table, the pool, or at any convenient opportunity. We encourage students to meet with and talk to peers in order to facilitate discussions and to share interpretations so that the books come alive!

Students should go beyond the required readings and escape into a multitude of fine works over the summer. So much can be gained through summer reading! Enjoy this opportunity to read at a more leisurely pace and become familiar with some very fine authors and books.

Sincerely,  
*Kelly Dwenger*  
Reading Department Chair