April 21, 2014

Dear Students and Parents,

During the summer prior to entering 8th grade, we are requesting that all students read at least one novel from the attached summer reading list and complete the attached book report. The book and book report should be completed before school starts. Students need to bring the book report to their 8th grade literature teacher on the first day of the new school year.

In our effort to promote summer reading, students are encouraged to read as many books as they would like from our list, but they are required to read one. Parents need to simply sign their name at the bottom of the completed book report in order for their child to receive credit.

All literature teachers are planning special activities relating to summer reading for the first week of 8th grade, so please remember to have your child bring their book report with them to class during the first week of school. The books on this list have been carefully chosen by the 8th grade teachers because of their recognized literary merit and because they directly relate to the eighth grade social studies and literature curriculum.

Students may purchase a book(s) from our list through the MSN library by filling out the attached form. All forms must be turned into Mrs. Dooley-Taylor in the library by Friday, May 2nd. Purchased books will be distributed to students before the last day of 7th grade. You may also obtain these books at the library or at a local bookstore, as we will be providing our summer reading list to Barnes and Noble in Deer Park, and the Ela Area Library.

You have received your child’s fall and winter MAP score and will be receiving his/her spring MAP score at the end of the year. On these tests you will find a Lexile Score, which may assist you and your child in selecting appropriate level novels for this summer reading assignment. If you would like more information about Lexile Scores and how to use them in selecting appropriate reading material, please refer to www.lexile.com.

We hope to make this summer reading initiative an enjoyable experience for all. Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to keep students reading during the summer months and throughout the school year.

Sincerely,
The 8th Grade Team
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saving Zasha</td>
<td>Randi Barrow</td>
<td>In post-WWII Russia, one boy dares to save an entire race of outlawed dogs -- the German shepherd! World War II has just ended when thirteen-year-old Mikhail finds a dying man and his German shepherd, Zasha, in the woods. It's dangerous -- some say traitorous -- to own a German dog after Germany attacked Russia, so Mikhail must keep Zasha a secret to keep her alive. Mikhail's inspiring journey to save his best friend, the last German shepherd in Russia, forces him to face some of life's hardest lessons about war, hate, forgiveness, hope, love, and man's best friend.</td>
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<td>Tuesdays at the Castle</td>
<td>Jessica Day George</td>
<td>Tuesdays at Castle Glower are Princess Celia's favorite days. That's because on Tuesdays the castle adds a new room, a turret, or sometimes even an entire wing to itself. No one ever knows what the castle will do next, and no one - other than Celia, that is - takes time to map out the new additions. But when King and Queen Glower are ambushed and reportedly killed, it's up to Celia with her secret knowledge of the Castle's many twists and turns, to protect their home and save their kingdom.</td>
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<td>Unstoppable</td>
<td>Tim Green</td>
<td>Inspired by interviews with real-life cancer survivors and insider sports experience, this unforgettable <em>New York Times</em> bestseller shows a brave boy who learns what it truly means to be unstoppable. If anyone understands the phrase &quot;tough luck,&quot; it's Harrison. As a foster kid in a cruel home, he knows his dream of one day playing in the NFL is a longshot. Then Harrison is brought into a new home with kind, loving parents—his new dad is even a football coach. On the field, Harrison is practically unstoppable. But Harrison's good luck can't last forever. When a routine sports injury leads to a devastating diagnosis, it will take every ounce of Harrison's determination not to give up for good.</td>
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<td>The False Prince</td>
<td>Jennifer Nielsen</td>
<td>In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner's motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword's point -- he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage's rivals have their own agendas as well. As Sage moves from a rundown orphanage to Conner's sumptuous palace, layer upon layer of treachery and deceit unfold, until finally, a truth is revealed that, in the end, may very well prove more dangerous than all of the lies taken together.</td>
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<td>Slob</td>
<td>Ellen Potter</td>
<td>Twelve-year-old Owen Birnbaum is the fattest kid in school. But he's also a genius who invents cool contraptions, like a TV that shows the past. Something happened two years ago that he needs to see. But genius or not, there is much Owen can't outthink. Like his gym coach, who's on a mission to humiliate him. Or the way his Oreos keep disappearing from his lunch. He's sure that if he can only get the TV to work, things will start to make sense. But it will take a revelation for Owen, not science, to see the answer's not in the past, but in the present. That no matter how large he is on the outside, he doesn't have to feel small on the inside.</td>
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<td>Navigating Early</td>
<td>Clare Vanderpool</td>
<td>At the end of World War II, Jack Baker, a landlocked Kansas boy, is suddenly uprooted after his mother’s death and placed in a boy’s boarding school in Maine. There, Jack encounters Early Auden, the strangest of boys, who reads the number pi as a story and collects clippings about the sightings of a great black bear in the nearby mountains. Newcomer Jack feels lost yet can’t help being drawn to Early, who won’t believe what everyone accepts to be the truth about the Great Appalachian Bear, Timber Rattlesnakes, and the legendary school hero known as The Fish, who never returned from the war. When the boys embark on a quest on the Appalachian Trail in search of the great black bear. But what they are searching for is sometimes different from what they find. They will meet truly strange characters, each of whom figures into the pi story Early weaves as they travel, while discovering things they never realized about themselves and others in their lives.</td>
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8th Grade Summer Reading Book Report
(Due on the first day of school·Please fill out completely, in ink! You may print or type your response.)

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Date Finished Reading: ____________

Title of Book: _________________________________

Please use the following words in your responses:
protagonist, antagonist, symbol, and characters traits.

Setting:

Key characters with description of character traits:

Plot/Main Events:

Conflicts-What types of conflicts are present in the novel?

Climax:

Key Quote & what does it reveal about the main character(s)?

Resolution:

Theme:

Please list five new words that you found in the book.

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<th>Word</th>
<th>Page #</th>
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I, __________________________, have completely read this book. This is the first time I have read it.

Student signature: _________________________ Parent Signature: ___________________
Book Order Form
8th Grade Summer Reading  2014
(for students entering 8th grade in the fall)

RETURN TO THE LIBRARY BY MAY 2nd.

Please clearly mark your choice or choices:

_____ Saving Zasha, Barrow       $4.89
_____ Tuesdays at the Castle, George       $5.59
_____ Unstoppable, Green       $4.89
_____ The False Prince, Nielsen       $4.89
_____ Slob, Potter (hard cover only)       $11.89
_____ Navigating Early, Vanderpool (hard cover only) $11.89

NAME_____________________________________________________

Lit Teacher________________________________________

Class period__________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED________________________cash/check payable to CUSD95

Check #__________