

Public School District Secaucus

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

One of the goals set of the Secaucus School District is to promote a love of books and reading. In keeping with this goal, we have prepared a list of books that would help immerse your child in great literature this summer. These books may be read alone or would be wonderful to share together.

Books can take your imagination to faraway places, on fantastic adventures, or back in time. You can learn about new things, meet new characters, and experience other cultures when you read. Reading can be relaxing, fun and rewarding - we know that people become better readers by reading!

Below is the name of the book we are asking your child to read this summer. During the first two weeks of school in September, the children will be working with their teacher on project based learning activities that will be graded and displayed throughout the building. Therefore, it is important that your child come to school prepared for the new school year, having read the assigned book. The books listed below are available at your child's school and at the Secaucus Public Library.

Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade Summer Reading Book List

- Exiting Kindergarten - *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- Exiting First Grade - *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell
- Exiting Second Grade - *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Exiting Third Grade - *Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli
- Exiting Fourth Grade - *Out of My Mind* By Sharon Draper
- Exiting Fifth Grade - *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick (*refer to the summer reading assignment on the Secaucus Middle School website*)

As such, the Children's Department at the Secaucus Public Library offers a summer filled with fun and activities. They also have additional selections that are appropriate for your child. Stop by the Secaucus Public Library for further details. The library at Clarendon and Huber Street School also offers a variety of books that will strengthen reading during the summer months and all seasons of the year! And don't forget that Reading A-Z (Raz Kids) is available to all exiting Kindergarten thru Fifth grade students all summer.

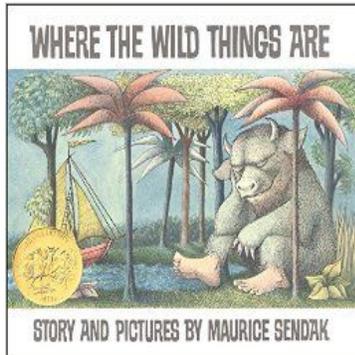
By reading this summer, your child will continue to travel to fantasy lands, solve mysteries, or have a good laugh through the pages of a book. We hope you will join us in continuing to foster a love of reading with your children this summer. Being an avid reader is the key to becoming a successful student.

Happy Summer Reading!

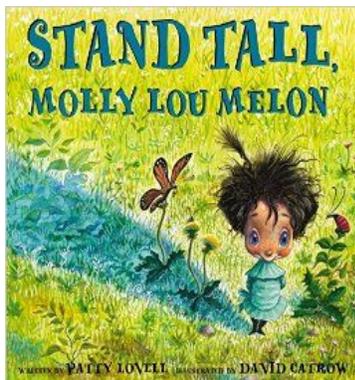
Sincerely,

Dr. Danielle Garzon, PreK-5 District Supervisor of Elementary Education & Testing
Dr. Daniela Riser, District Director of Curriculum & Director
Mr. Steven Viggiani, Principal, Clarendon School
Mrs. Linda Wilhelm, Principal, Huber Street School

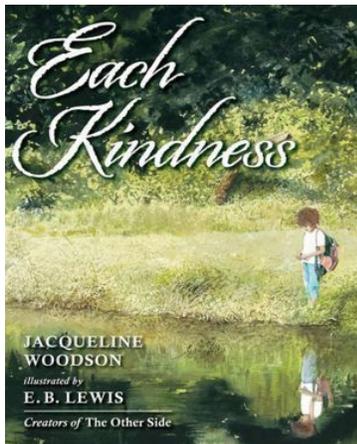
Exiting Kindergarten thru Exiting Fourth Grade Summer Reading Book List



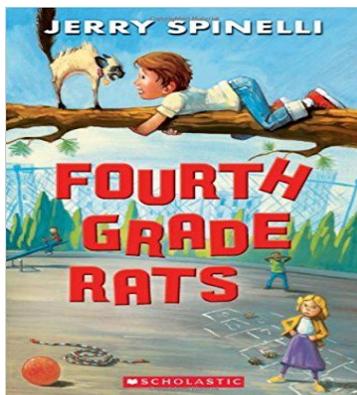
Exiting Kindergarten Read: Students exiting Kindergarten will read *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. "One night Max dresses in his wolf suit and misbehaves. His mother sends him to his room without supper. Max's imagination transforms his room to have a forest, an ocean, and a little boat that Max sails to a land of "wild things."



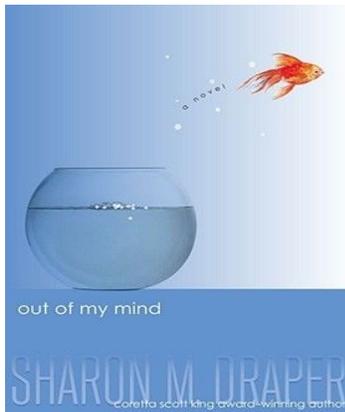
Exiting First Grade Read: Students exiting First grade will read *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell. "Be yourself like Molly Lou Melon no matter what a bully may do." Molly Lou Melon is different, but this doesn't slow her down. Molly Lou Melon is short and clumsy, has buck teeth, and has a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. She doesn't mind. Her grandmother has always told her to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that advice to heart. But then Molly Lou has to start in a new school. A horrible bully picks on her on the very first day, but Molly Lou Melon knows just what to do about that.



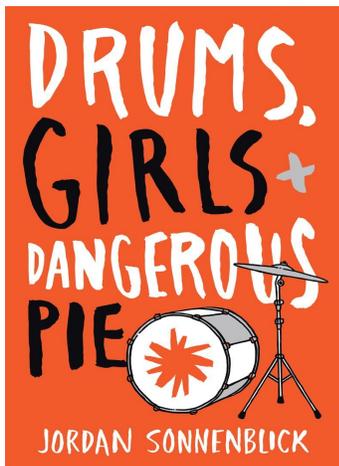
Exiting Second Grade Read: Students exiting Second grade will read *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson. The 2013 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book *Each Kindness* makes the world a little better. Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Maya is different; she wears hand-me-downs and plays with old-fashioned toys. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her gang, they reject her. Eventually, Maya plays alone, and then stops coming to school altogether. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.



Exiting Third Grade Read: Students exiting Third grade will read *Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli. In *Fourth Grade Rats*, Suds is overwhelmed by a whole new set of rules. "Rats" are supposed to be tough. They aren't afraid of spiders, they don't carry babyish lunch boxes, they push little kids off the swings, they rebel against their moms... and they certainly don't cry! To make matters worse, Joey has appointed himself the new sheriff in town, bossing Suds around and hogging all of Judy's attention with his new attitude. Can Suds survive this rat race and still be his old, comfortable self? In this delightful novel, master storyteller Jerry Spinelli takes Suds on a whirlwind adventure navigating peer pressure, forming friendships, and figuring out how much to grow up while remaining true to himself.



Exiting Fourth Grade Read: Students exiting Fourth grade will read *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper. Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but no one knows it. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows...but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice, but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.



Exiting Fifth Grade Read: Students exiting Fifth grade will read *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick. Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece.



Help Your Child Get The Most Out of Summer Reading

Tips for Parents



Remember, summer reading is (and should be) fun! The tips below will help ensure that your child has a successful, reading filled summer.

1. Be a role model; be seen reading
2. Spend time looking at pictures and turning pages with your young children (this counts as reading too!)
3. Allow children to choose the books they want to read, even if they wouldn't have been your choice.
4. Taking a road trip? Take an audio book along!
5. Remember, reading comes in all shapes and forms: don't forget about newspapers, magazines, comic books, eBooks ... it's all reading!

Below you will find a list of possible questions to help you with conversations about your child's reading. They are not intended to be used all at once or every time your child reads. Use them at your discretion and where they are appropriate.

[Questions for sharing fiction texts](#)

- o Who is the main character?
- o What was the setting?
- o What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- o Why do you think the author chose this title for the story?
- o Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend?
- o What part of the story was the most exciting?
- o What other book does this remind you of?
- o If you could change one part, what would you change?

- o Can you relate the main character from this story to a main character from another book you have read?
- o Can you predict how the story might end?
- o How would you have felt if you were the character? Would you have done the same things? Something differently?
- o What did you wonder while you were reading?
- o What is the most important point the author is trying to make in his/her writing?

Questions for sharing non-fiction texts

- o What is the main idea of the text?
- o What did you learn from reading the text?
- o Do you have any questions after reading this?
- o Did you learn any new vocabulary words?
- o Did you like this text? Why or why not?

Educational Websites & Resources

Reading A to Z - <https://www.raz-kids.com/main/TeacherCorner/subpage/summer>

Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Cool Math 4 Kids - <https://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

Math Antics - <https://mathantics.com/>

Fun Brain - <https://www.funbrain.com/>