According to the National Summer Learning Association, summer vacation, while a welcome respite, can create problems for students. In fact, this hiatus from learning can result in summer learning loss or what is commonly referred to as the “summer slide”. Fortunately, though, there’s an easy and fun solution: reading as few as four to six books over the summer prevents a drop in reading skills and test scores when school resumes.

All students are required to read the following selected books. The local library and bookstore have been informed of these selections.

Incoming Grade 3 students: **Freckle Juice** (Judy Blume)
Incoming Grade 4 students: **Frindle** (Andrew Clements)
Incoming Grade 5 students: **Wonder** (R.J. Palacio)

Students should be prepared to take part in literary discussions regarding these core novels and will be required to complete activities based on the book. These activities may include writing a response to literature in class or taking a test based on the book. It is encouraged that each student has his/her own copy of the required reading book.

In addition to the required reading, students are encouraged to engage in a wide variety of reading activities over the summer, such as those held at public libraries, reading magazines, newspapers, maps, and brochures, both in print and online.

The 2020 Rhode Island Children’s Book Award Nominees (list enclosed) has a variety of recommended fiction and nonfiction options. We encourage students to read at least three of these titles so they can participate in the state voting for the winning selection next school year.

Students are required to use the enclosed reading log to document their progress toward meeting the 25 book requirement (all students must read 25 books a year). **FOUR of the books read over the summer count towards this requirement of 25 books.** All reading logs must be submitted to your child’s teacher on the first day of school with four books recorded on the log (three books of their own choice and the one required reading book); this log will become part of the student’s portfolio.

What the research tells us:
“Literacy development is an ongoing process...In today’s fast-paced world, literacy demands are expanding, and they include more reading and writing tasks than at any other time in history. Students [Adolescents] need high levels of literacy to understand the vast amount of information available to them, and to fuel their imaginations as they help create the world of the future.”
(International Reading Association: Adolescent Literacy Position Statement)