

Millburn Middle School

Summer 2021

Dear Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade Millburn Middle School Students and Parents,

Research shows that students who read for pleasure in the summer do better and forget less when they return to school in the fall. The benefits are not just in English/Language Arts class (ELA). Students who don't read over the summer can slide backwards in all subject areas. The summer break offers great opportunities for students, and their families, to help improve reading and writing skills.

**Each incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to read at least one 2022 Caudill Award nominated book this summer.** There will be a specific assignment for this book when the students return to school in the fall.

**Eighth grade students** may choose from the following list of books:

- ***Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"*** by Deborahh Heiligman (nonfiction)
- ***Free Lunch*** by Rex Ogle (nonfiction - autobiography)
- ***They Called Us Enemy*** by George Takei (nonfiction - autobiography - graphic novel)
- ***Inkling*** by Kenneth Oppel (fiction - humor)
- ***City of Ghosts*** by Victoria Schwab (fiction - horror/paranormal)
- ***Other Words for Home*** by Jasmine Warga (fiction - written in verse - highest Lexile)
- ***Genesis Begins Again*** by Alicia D. Williams (fiction)

This letter is included in the virtual backpack. We strongly suggest that parents read the same book as their child and discuss it together over the summer. Students are encouraged to keep a journal or annotate as they read.

We don't stop reading Caudills once the summer is over! All students are to read at least three Caudill nominated books by February so that they can participate in the state-wide vote for the best book. The Media Center has a reading contest. There are different raffles for students who read five, eight and fifteen of the twenty. Each goal has a due date. Feel free to start reading towards those goals this summer.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

The 8th Grade ELA Teachers