May 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Incoming Fifth Graders,

We are excited about our active and engaging reading curriculum at Greenhill and regard summer as a great opportunity for our students to read every chance they get. The attached list of titles offers exciting journeys into worlds like and very unlike our own and will, we feel sure, enrich your children’s imagination and broaden their social and cultural awareness.

This summer, students are expected to read one required summer reading book. This summer, incoming fifth graders will be reading *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. As the publisher writes, “Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid, but his new classmates can’t get past his extraordinary face. *Wonder* begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include the perspectives of others. These voices converge to portray a community as it struggles with differences, and challenges readers to wonder about the true nature of empathy, compassion, acceptance, friendship, and kindness.” We know this book will spark enlightening conversations to begin our year in fifth grade English. It is not required for incoming fifth graders to take notes in their copies of *Wonder*.

All of us hope that you and your child will have a relaxing summer full of good books and the time to read them.

Sincerely,

Susan Palmer
Head of Middle School

Katie Peterson
Department Chair, Middle School English

Monica Bullock
Melanie Girard
Natalie Nihill Ruberto
5th Grade English Faculty

Abby Harrison
Head Librarian
Summer Reading List for Incoming Fifth Graders

All students must read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Greenhill will provide a copy of the book.

In addition, students must read a minimum of two additional books from the list below that they have not read before. The two books should come from **two different categories:** fiction, nonfiction, mystery, fantasy, or historical fiction. The titles are organized by genre and alphabetically by author. Most authors on this list have won one or more awards; therefore, other titles by the same authors on this list may be substituted for credit. The objective is for students to experience three different authors and different genres. Please do NOT read *Me and Marvin Gardens, Front Desk, Flying Lessons, Eleven, or The Parker Inheritance.* Some descriptions courtesy of Amazon.com or Follett.

**********************************************************************************Fiction**********************************************************************************

**The Green Bicycle**, Al-Mansour. Since girls do not ride bikes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, eleven year old Wadjda has to scheme to get her own.

**The One and Only Ivan**, Applegate
When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

**Kinda Like Brothers**, Booth
When his mother takes in a twelve-year-old foster boy, Jarrett is forced to share his room and his friends with the new boy.

**Extra Credit**, Clements

**Saving Winslow**, Creech
Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. When his father brings home a sickly, newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. Taking care of him helps Louie feel closer to his brother, Gus, who is far, far away in the army. As Louie's bond with Winslow grows, surprising events prove that this fragile donkey-and Louie-are stronger than anyone could have imagined.

**The Gollywhopper Games**, Feldman
Gil, 12, competes against thousands in games and stunts sponsored by a toy company that awards scholarships and enough money for his family to start over since his father was accused of embezzlement. There are lots of codes and puzzles to crack.

**Baseball Genius**, Green
An average kid with an above average talent for predicting baseball pitches tries to help his favorite player out of a slump.

**Real Friends**, Hale
Following little Shannon's life from kindergarten through fifth grade, Real Friends captures the emotional roller coaster ride of friendship, from navigating the tricky waters of cliques and bullies to her never-ending struggle to stay in "The Group." Shannon's honest and heartfelt story reminds us of how hard it was to learn what real friends are--and why finding them is worth the journey.

**All's Faire in Middle School**, Jamieson
Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

**Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam**, Kadohata
A German shepherd destined for greatness until a broken leg is accepted into a military canine unit, bonds with a young soldier, and helps soldiers sniff out booby traps in Vietnam.

**Hello Universe**, Kelly
In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball.

**Restart**, Korman
Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?

Swindle, Korman (Swindle series)
After being conned out of a valuable baseball card, 6th grader Griffin and his friends try to get it back. Standing in their way are a menacing guard dog, a high-tech security system, a secret hiding place, and their inability to drive.

Listen, Slowly, Lai
Twelve-year-old Mai is sick of being perfect and her straight A's and extracurricular activities have gotten her a much unwanted trip to Vietnam with her family so she can learn more about her roots. But as time goes on, Mai grows closer to her family and she begins to understand her culture.

The Batboy, Lupica
Brian is a majors’ batboy without a father. Hank is a disgraced batter for the majors. Can baseball bring them together? It’s a summer neither expects and neither will ever forget.

Watchdog, McIntosh
Thirteen-year-old twins Vick and Tara have built an incredible machine--a loyal robotic watchdog named Daisy. But, when local crime boss Ms. Alba schemes to add Daisy to her robot army, Vick and Tara must go to great lengths to protect their prized pet. Because Daisy is more than just any robot--she’s their constant protector, and together the three make a great team.

The First Rule of Punk, Perez
There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School’s queen bee, violates the school’s dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself.

Stay, Pyron
Piper’s world is turned upside down when her family moves into a shelter. Hard times bring new friends including Jewel and her dog, Baby. When Jewel goes missing will Piper be able to help?

Ghost, Reynolds (Track series)
Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team--a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together.

Amal Unbound, Saeed
In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Wonderstruck, Selznik
Caldecott Medal author
Ben in 1997 and Rose in 1927 both run away. Set 50 years apart, their stories converge in an amazing way linked by the Museum of Natural History. One story is narrated in text, the other through stunning graphic art.

Escape from Aleppo, Senzai
Nadia's family is forced to flee their home in Aleppo, Syria, when the Arab Spring sparks a civil war in this timely coming-of-age novel.

Storm Runners, Smith (Storm Runners series)
Fast-paced action as Chase, 12, travels the country with his dad, a “storm runner,” and he is tested in ways he never imagined when he and a new friend are caught in a hurricane near St. Petersburg, Florida.

Orphan Island, Snyder
A group of orphans wait each year for a boat to arrive on the island, replacing the eldest with the youngest, never to be seen again, as each remaining child child learns what it means to say goodbye to childhood forever.

The Bridge Home, Venkatraman
Four homeless children in India try to make a life for themselves.

Pie, Weeks
Alice’s Aunt Polly passes away and leaves her world-famous pie crust recipe to her cat, which she leaves in Alice’s care. As everyone tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns important lessons about faith, love, and family.

**Clayton Byrd Goes Underground**, Williams-Garcia
Clayton is forbidden by his mother from playing the blues after his grandfather dies and runs away to the subways to join a band.

**So Totally Emily Ebers**, Yee (other titles Millicent Min, Girl Genius and Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time)
After her parents' divorce, Emily moves. Now she writes letters to her rock-star dad about travel, her new friends, and how much she misses him. Emily may be starting over, but she's going to come out on top.

**Phineas Gage**, Fleischman
Fleischman reveals an extraordinary account of how mid-nineteenth century railroad worker Phineas Gage survived a horrible head injury and how his slow recovery advanced modern scientists’ understanding of the human brain.

**Ugly: A Memoir**, Hoge
Robert Hoge was born with a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs, but he refused to let what made him different stand in the way of leading a happy, successful life. This is the true story of how he embraced his circumstances and never let his 'ugly' stop him from focusing on what truly mattered.

**We Are the Ship: the story of Negro League Baseball**, Nelson Coretta Scott King Award/ Sibert Award
This illustrated book explores the history of Negro League baseball teams, owners, players, hardships, wins, and losses.

**Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive**, Paquette
Presents some of the most crazy-but-true stories about the living world as well as a handful of stories that are too crazy to be true--and asks readers to separate facts from the fakes!

**Duped! True Stories of the World’s Best Swindlers**, Schroeder
Eight true tales of the most outrageous swindlers. How the Nazis planned to destroy the British economy during WWII, how a radio broadcast had American citizens convinced that Martians were invading the country, etc. Great illustrations.

**Hidden Figures Young Readers’ Edition**, Shetterly
The powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.

**Capsized the Forgotten Story of SS Eastland Disaster**, Sutton
On July 24, 1915, the SS Eastland, filled to capacity with 2,500 passengers and crew, capsized in the Chicago River while still moored to the pier.

**Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift’s “Chocolate Pilot,”** Tunnell
Fascinating true story of the WWII pilot who began a nation-wide effort to collect candy and gum and drop it by parachutes for children over war-torn Berlin. Wonderful illustrations and period photos.

**Scientists in the Field**, various authors (Scientists in the Field series) (several titles available as an ebook on Follett Shelf)
Each of this 30+ book series is beautifully illustrated with photo-essay profiles of scientists as they each work in unique fields of science. Some titles include Tarantula Scientist, Gorilla Doctor: Saving Endangered Great Apes, Swimming with Hammerhead Sharks, Emi and the Rhino Scientist, The Wildlife Detective, The Tornado Scientist, etc.

**The Girl Who Drank the Moon**, Barnhill
An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

**Aru Shah and the End of Time**, Chokshi
Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

**Gregor the Overlander**, Collins (Underland Chronicles series)
When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

**A Tale Dark and Grimm**, Gidwitz
Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. Follow them through a forest brimming with menacing foes and learn the true story behind the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches.

**Among the Hidden**, Haddix (The Shadow Children series)
As a third child, Luke has never been to school or had a friend. In this future world, having more than two kids is illegal. When he meets a shadow child like himself, does he dare to risk everything to come out of the shadows?

**Redwall**, Jacques (Redwall series)
Adventurous stories of mice and other creatures that travel to their destiny with the help of Martin-the-Warrior.

**Treasure of Greek Mythology**, Napoli
The ultimate full-color guide to mythic gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters. Thrilling tales and character profiles.

**The Olympians Book Series**, O'Connor
In Olympians, the author draws from primary documents to reconstruct and retell classic Greek myths. But these stories aren't sedate, scholarly works. They're action-packed, fast-paced, high-drama adventures with monsters, romance, and not a few huge explosions. The vibrant, kinetic art brings ancient tales to life, in a perfect fusion of super-hero aesthetics and ancient Greek mythology. 11 Vols.

**The Lightning Thief**, Riordan (Percy Jackson series) (available as an ebook on Follett Discover)
Percy Jackson discovers that the Greek gods and goddesses still exist, and that he is the son of one of the gods. He goes on a quest to solve a mystery and return peace to Olympus.

**Closer**, Williams & Gordon (Tunnels series)
Will spends time decoding cryptic glyphs, eyeing the wild animals with renegade girl Elliott, and the ruthless Rebeccas have once more cheated death. With a corps of cold-blooded Limiters, they're determined to hunt Will to the bitter end.

**Historical Fiction**

**The War That Saved My Life**, Bradley
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**Finding Langston**, Cline-Ransome
Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

**The Journey of Little Charlie**, Curtis
When his poor sharecropper father is killed in an accident and leaves the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie agrees to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of people who have stolen from him. Cap'n Buck tells Little Charlie that his father's debt will be cleared when the fugitives are captured, which seems like a good deal until Little Charlie comes face-to-face with the people he is chasing.

**The Rhino in Right Field**, DeKeyser
In 1948, Nikko Spirakis, twelve, loves baseball but must get past his hard-working immigrant parents--and the rhino in the outfield--to become a batboy for the local minor league team.

With his ability to travel through time, Joe takes Flip to find out whether Satchel Page really was the fastest pitcher ever.

**The Trouble with May Amelia**, Holm (also Our Only May Amelia) Newbery author
May Amelia is a tough, pioneer girl in Washington in a Finnish family with seven brothers. She always seems to be in trouble even though she tries to gain her father’s respect. He thinks girls are useless. Now her mistake might cost them the farm.

**Turtle in Paradise**, Holm Full of Beans (companion novel)
In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.

**Ahimsa**, Kelkar
In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi asks Indians to give one family member to the freedom movement, ten-year-old Anjali is devastated to think of her father risking his life for the freedom struggle. But it turns out he isn't the one joining. Anjali's mother is. And with this change comes many more adjustments designed to improve their country and use 'ahimsa'--non-violent resistance--to stand up to the British government.
Number the Stars, Lowry
A daring, ten-year-old girl tries to outsmart Nazi soldiers to help her Jewish best friend escape Denmark.

The King of Mulberry Street, Napoli
Beniamino, 9, a Jewish boy from Naples, is smuggled onto a ship in 1892. When he ends up alone in New York, he has to deal with his fear and sadness and figure out how to get food and shelter as he makes his way in the New World.

Beyond the Bright Sea, Wolk
Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow’s only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn’t until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart.

One Crazy Summer, Williams-Garcia
In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

The Great Shelby Holmes, Eulberg, The Great Shelby Holmes Meets Her Match, Eulberg, The Great Shelby Holmes and the Coldest Case, Eulberg
Shelby Holmes, the best detective in her Harlem neighborhood, and her easy-going friend from downstairs, John Watson, become partners to solve the trickiest mysteries in the neighborhood.

Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring, Cervantes
Paloma Marquez is traveling to Mexico City, birthplace of her deceased father, for the very first time. She’s hoping that spending time in Mexico will help her unlock memories of the too-brief time they spent together. While in Mexico, Paloma meets Lizzie and Gael, who present her with an irresistible challenge: The siblings want her to help them find a valuable ring that once belonged to beloved Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

Belly Up, Gibbs
Teddy, 12, believes that Henry the hippo at the brand-new FunJungle has been murdered. The zoo officials say the hippo went belly up the natural way, but Teddy and his friend Summer disagree. The more they dig, the more danger they’re in.

Spy School, Gibbs
Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

The Strangers, Haddix
Told from separate viewpoints, Chess, Emma, and Finn Greystone, ages twelve, ten, and eight, investigate why their mother went missing and uncover their ties to an alternate world.

Chomp, Hiassen
A combination of wild animals and reality TV is mixed with humor, adventure, and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Everglades during a storm and Wahoo, 12, and his friend Tuna are left to find him.

The Mysterious Benedict Society, Stewart
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

The Harlem Charade, Tarpley
Seventh-graders Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin come from very different backgrounds and circumstances, but they all live in Harlem, and when Elvin's grandfather is attacked they band together to find out who is responsible--and the search leads them to an enigmatic artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune, and into conflict with an ambitious politician who wants to turn Harlem into an historic amusement park.

Sammy Keyes and the Wild Things, van Draanen
While on her first hiking and camping trip, Sammy, 13, tries to solve a mystery involving an injured endangered condor while avoiding scorpions, ticks, the embarrassment of being lost, and a dangerous armed poacher.