May 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Incoming Sixth 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 awareness.

All sixth graders will read *Eleven* by Tom Rogers. Set against the backdrop of September 11th, the exciting novel *Eleven* follows intertwining stories as the protagonist confronts difficult situations and reflects on what it means to be a “grown-up.” In the past the text has been read during the school year, but next year we will use it to jump start our study of themes, symbolism, and effective writing strategies.

This book will be given to each student at school before the end of the year, so there is no need to purchase it.

Current Greenhill students will receive a “Notice and Note” bookmark and are expected to annotate their books as they read. Taking notes in their copy of *Eleven* is required for incoming sixth graders who were at Greenhill in fifth grade. For students who are new to Greenhill, this is not required.

In addition to memoir, each student needs to read a minimum of two more books not previously read from the attached list. The other two selections will be the spur for activities and assignments in the fall.

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

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Attachments
Summer Reading List for Incoming Sixth Graders

All students must read *Eleven*. Greenhill School 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. In addition to the list of books below, students may choose books that have won the Newbery Award, except the following books: *Missing May; Joyful Noise; Whipping Boy; Sarah, Plain and Tall; Good Masters, Sweet Ladies; Dear Mr. Henshaw; and A Visit to William Blake’s Inn*. Also, please do not read *The Parker Inheritance*.

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

**Does My Head Look Big in This**, Abdel-Fattah
Year eleven at a prep school in Australia would be tough enough, but it is complicated for Amal when she wears the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith without losing her identity or sense of style.

**The Crossover**, Alexander *(Rebound*-prequel)*
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

**Ms. Bixby’s Last Day**, Anderson
Ms. Bixby is the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is somehow worthwhile. Who recognizes something in you that sometimes you don't even see in yourself. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, three of her students come up with a risky plan to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves.

**Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World**, Blake
Twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

**The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora**, Cartaya
For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. But this summer also includes Carmen who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn’t notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight.

**Illegal**, Colfer
Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. Ebo's epic quest takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.

**The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle**, Connor
Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day.

**The Castle Corona**, Creech
A comic fairy tale set in feudal Italy involving a spoiled royal family and peasants who are in possession of a stolen pouch, the contents of which had the power to unlock secrets and transform lives.

**Out of My Mind**, Draper
Powerful story of the smartest girl in the school with a photographic memory. No one knows because she can’t talk or write due to cerebral palsy. No one thinks she is smart, but what happens when she figures out a way to communicate?

**Far Away**, Graff
Twelve-year-old CJ believes her mom is dead and that she can only communicate with her through her aunt, who is a medium, but when CJ finds out that her mother is actually alive, she goes on a journey to find her.

**Kid Owner**, Green
When Ryan’s estranged father unexpectedly dies, he learns he has inherited the Dallas Cowboys. With his new role as owner, he has high hopes he can be more than middle-school misfit and bench warmer.

**No More Dead Dogs**, Korman
Eight grade football hero, Wallace, must serve detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve the play and his life also

**Ungifted**, Korman
Gifted has never described Donovan. But a major prank at school and a mix-up by a school official send Donovan to the ASD, a special program for gifted and talented students. Can he manage to fool people whose IQs are above genius level?

**True Legend**, Lupica
Basketball phenom Drew has a once-in-a-generation talent on the court. Drew buys into his own hype, and suddenly trouble has a way of finding him, until a washed-up former legend takes him under his wing.

**The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl**, McAnulty
A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

**Merci Suarez Changes Gears**, Medina Newbery author
Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home either. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school.

**Breakout**, Messner
Told in letters, poems, text messages, news stories, and comics--a series of documents Nora collects for the Wolf Creek Community Time Capsule Project--*Breakout* is a thrilling story that will leave readers thinking about who's really welcome in the places we call home.

**The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita Sen** (Originally published as *The Sunita Experiment*), Perkins
In this engaging story of cultural discovery, Sunita, 13, resents her Indian heritage when her grandparents come to visit from India. She is embarrassed by the differences she feels between herself and her friends, but she's in for surprises.

**A Good Kind of Trouble**, Ramee
Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough. After experiencing a powerful protest, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking. She starts wearing an armband to school in support of the Black Lives movement. Soon everyone is taking sides. And she is given an ultimatum. Shay is scared to do the wrong thing, but if she doesn't face her fear, she'll be forever tripping over the next hurdle.

**Miles Morales, Spider-Man**, Reynolds
Brooklyn Visions Academy student Miles Morales may not always want to be a super hero, but he must come to terms with his identity--and deal with a villainous teacher--as the new Spider Man

**Ghost Boys**, Rhodes
Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life.

**Small Steps**, Sachar Newbery author
Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit’s old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, and Armpit reluctantly goes along.

**Guys Write for Guys Read: boys’ favorite authors write about being boys**, ed. Scieszka - multiple authors
(other titles include *Guys Read: Funny Business* and *Guys Read: Thriller, Guys Read: Sports Pages*) ed. Scieszka
This is a rich collection of stories, mini-memoirs, advice, poems, drawings, mysteries, non-stop action and comics of defining guy moments. Funny, sad, triumphant, and down-right irresistible, these books are enjoyable for boys and girls.

**To Night Owl from Dogfish**, Sloan
Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals as well as the ocean, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads. When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends—and possibly, one day, even sisters.

**When You Reach Me**, Stead
The key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. Then mysterious notes that defy time and space start arriving. Each message causes Miranda, 12, to believe that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late, all while her mom prepares to be a contestant on a TV game show.

**Other Words for Home**, Warga
Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. Her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before.

**Genesis Begins Again**, Williams
Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

**One Crazy Summer**, Williams-Garcia
After traveling from NYC to Oakland to spend the summer of 1968 with their mother, Dalphine, 11, and her sisters discover that their mother is resentful of their visit. They end up helping the Black Panthers struggle for equality.

************Nonfiction************

**Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert**, Aronson
True story of the 2010 suspenseful day-by-day above and below story of the rescue of miners trapped for 69 days.

**How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous**, Bragg
Dying was a big mess before modern medical care. Follow 19 historical figures’ deaths with gory and bloody details. Informative, fascinating, with a bit of humor, follow King Tut’s mumification, Einstein’s brain, Galileo’s finger, etc.

**Torpedoed : the true story of the World War II sinking of "The Children's Ship"**, Heiligman
Amid the constant rain of German bombs and the escalating violence of World War II, British parents by the thousands chose to send their children out of the country: the wealthy, independently; the poor, through a government relocation program called CORB. In September 1940, passenger liner SS City of Benares set out in a convoy of nineteen ships sailing for Canada. On board were ninety CORB children, chaperones, and crew, along with paying passengers. When the war ships escorting the Benares to safe waters peeled off and the way forward seemed certain, a German submarine attacked and torpedoed the Benares.

**Top Secret: a handbook of codes, ciphers, and secret writing**, Janeczko
The book contains fifty documents that shed light on the spy world and covert operations since the sixteenth century, each with commentary that explains the effect of the information on wars, civilizations, and history.

**Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and the War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America**, Jarrow
On the night of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What appeared to be breaking news about an alien invasion was in fact a radio drama based on H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*. Some listeners became angry once they realized they had been tricked, and the reaction to the broadcast sparked a national discussion about fake news, propaganda, and the role of radio.

**An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793**, Murphy
In Philadelphia in 1793, the nation's capital and the largest city in North America is devastated by an apparently incurable disease -- cause unknown. Suspenseful, riveting true story of a city under siege. Generously illustrated.

**Breakthrough!: How Three People Saved “Blue Babies” and Changed Medicine Forever**, Murphy
The 1944 history of Dr. Blalock, Dr. Taussig, and Blalock's African American assistant Thomas successfully invented the surgical procedure that saved infants from a heart defect that gave them oxygen-deficient blood and a blue appearance.

**Free Lunch**, Ogle
Rex Ogle recounts his first semester in sixth grade in which he and his younger brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies and he was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and the humiliation of having to announce it every day in the school lunch line, Rex's is a compelling story of a more profound hunger -- that of a child for his parents' love and care.
Chew on This, Schlosser
This eye-opening excursion into the fast food industry looks at its growth, practice, and effects on public health.

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Marie Merian’s Art Changed Science, Sidman
Newbery author
One of the first naturalists to observe live insects directly, Maria Sibylla Merian was also one of the first to document the metamorphosis of the butterfly. In this visual nonfiction biography, richly illustrated throughout with full-color original paintings by Merian herself, author Joyce Sidman paints her own picture of one of the first female entomologists and a woman who flouted convention in the pursuit of knowledge and her passion for insects.

Scientists in the Field, series, various authors
(some available as an ebook on Follett Discover)
Each book in 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 Detectives, etc.

Ten True Tales series (Scholastic Publishing – various authors including Zullo)
True tale vignettes in each of the 10+ books. Some titles include: The Rescuers: Kids Who Risked Everything to Save Others; True Tales of Misbehaving Animals: Bad Pets; Ten True Tales: Heroes of 9/11; Titanic: Young Survivors.

Small Spaces, Arden
After eleven-year-old Ollie's school bus mysteriously breaks down on a field trip, she has to take a trip through scary woods, and must use all of her wits to survive. She must stick to small spaces.

The Danger Box, Balliett
Zoomy, 12, and his new friend investigate an odd journal found inside a mysterious box, deal with a missing father, a fire, and a death, and find family secrets and a valuable treasure, all while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.

The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army Navy Game, Feinstein (series)
A continuing story of teen sports writers, Stevie and Susan Carol. They uncover an illegal gambling racket with a plan to throw a key game. Will they get the authorities to believe them before the game is thrown?

Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation, Gibbs
The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer, Grisham (Theodore Boone series) (other titles The Activist and The Abduction)
A perfect murder, a faceless witness, and a lone courtroom champion who knows all the judges, police, court employees, and the truth. Too bad he’s only 13. Packed with suspense and intrigue.

Scorpia Rising, Horowitz (Alex Rider series)
Scorpia, a dangerous terrorist organization, has dogged teen, Alex Rider, for most of his life. They killed his parents, tried to con Alex into turning traitor, and now in the Middle East Scorpia keeps coming back with more power. Who will win?

The Mystery of the Third Lucretia, Runholt
While traveling in London, Paris, and Amsterdam, fourteen-year-old best friends Kari and Lucas solve an international art forgery mystery.

I, Q: Independence Hall, Smith (I, Q series)
Q, 13, and Angela, 15, have their lives changed when his mother marries her father, wildly popular musicians. When the band takes a national road trip the teens find themselves involved with spies and terrorists.

The Book of Three, Alexander (Chronicles of Prydain series) Newbery author
In this first of five books about a mythical land, Taran, an assistant pig-keeper, and Prince Gwydion fight against the evil forces threatening the kingdom.

Sweep, Auxier
In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.
The Lost Years of Merlin, Baron
The tale of the legendary Merlin's youth. Merlin searches for his true being while overcoming perilous odds.

Artemis Fowl: The Time Paradox, Colfer (Artemis Fowl series) (available as an ebook on Follett Discover)
Artemis's travels back in time to find a cure for his mother's disease. The cure needs the brain fluid of now-extinct lemurs, and he is shocked to learn it was his younger self who caused the animal's extinction.

The Hunger Games, Collins (Catching Fire and Mockingjay - sequels) (available as an ebook on Follett Discover)
Sixteen-year-old Katniss accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

The Dark is Rising, Cooper (Dark is Rising series) Newbery Honor
This series portrays the conflict between the good Servants of Light and the evil Powers of Dark. In an intricate fantasy, Cooper uses folklore and legend.

The Outcasts, Flanagan (The Brotherband Chronicles series) (other titles: The Invaders and The Hunters)
Action packed thriller of epic battles of Skandians and Araluens. Hal, 16, and his band of ostracized misfits compete with 2 other powerful brotherbands, endure 3 months of grueling training in weapons and battle tactics to see who will win.

Interworld, Gaiman
Joey Harker discovers that he can walk between alternate Earths and is swept up in a war between them in this fast-paced, compulsively readable tale.

Inheritance, Paolini (Inheritance series) (other titles: Eragon, Eldest, and Brising)
Once Eragon Shadeslayer was a poor farm boy. Now the fate of an entire civilization rests on his shoulders and that of his dragon, Saphira as they confront the evil Galbatirix. There are no second chances. Will they be strong enough?

Historical Fiction

Fever, 1793, Anderson
In 1793 Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Sylvia and Aki, Conkling
Based on the true story of Aki, a Japanese American sent to an internment camp during WWII, and Mexican American Sylvia whose family leased Aki’s family farm and begin the fight to stop school segregation.

Alchemy and Meggy Swann, Cushman Other medieval titles (Matilda Bone and Catherine, Called Birdy)
Newbery author (available as an ebook on Follett Shelf)
Meggy is sent to medieval London to a father she has never met. She makes friends and helps with his alchemy work. He sells arsenic to men who intend to poison their masters, and she frantically tries to save both masters and her father.

Elijah of Buxton, Curtis Newbery Honor
In 1859, 11 year old Elijah Freeman, from Buxton, Canada, a haven for American slaves, uses his wits and skills to bring to justice the lying preacher who stole money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

The Night Diary, Hiranandani
Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Everything Else in the Universe, Holczer
In 1971, twelve-year-old Lucy Rossi's dad returns from Vietnam after losing part of his arm, and her whole family must learn to adjust to a new dynamic, but Lucy's friend Milo unknowingly helps her navigate through this difficult time of fear and uncertainty to realize she is much tougher than she thought.

Lifeboat 12, Hood
In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed. Includes historical notes.

Secret Soldiers, Hutton
In 1917, Thomas, a thirteen-year-old coal miner seeking his missing brother, James, joins the Claykickers, who tunnel beneath the battlefields of the Western Front as they learn to be men.
The Outlaws of Sherwood, McKinley Newbery author
The adventures of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws, who lived in Sherwood Forest in Twelfth Century England.

Woods Runner, Paulsen
From his 1776 home, Samuel, 13, a skilled woodsman, goes to rescue his parents from British soldiers and Native Americans who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their town. This is a page-turning thriller.