

Fourth Grade Summer Reading 2010-2011

Dear Families,

With the school year over, summer is upon us. Summer is a wonderful time to sit or lie down with a good book. Whether you're at the beach, camping, or just around the house, reading throughout the summer will better prepare your child for the next school year.

The fourth-grade teachers require each upcoming student to read three books over the summer. One book, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, is required reading for all students. The remaining two books may be of your child's choice. We ask that these books be close to your child's reading comfort level. A good test is the "five finger rule." Your child should try reading the text on a page with no pictures. For each word they do not know, they should put up one finger. If they reach five fingers before the end of the page, the book is not a good fit.

Our required book, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, should be read later in the summer after the two free choices. We do not recommend beginning it prior to August 1st. We will spend the first several weeks of the school year discussing the book and its elements, and the fresher it is in your child's mind the better. It is necessary for your child to complete this required reading prior to the first day of school so they can actively participate. On the second page, you will find three questions that your child should focus on before, during, and after reading *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

Reading over the summer is an excellent way to keep your child motivated and thinking over the vacation. It also helps him/her maintain the progress made this year in school. We appreciate your assistance in helping your child keep up with this reading.

Your partners in education,

Mrs. Bushman and Mr. Evans

Focus questions for reading *Because of Winn-Dixie*:

No writing is required. Just think about these questions, and be ready to talk about them at the beginning of the school year.

- 1) How does India Opal describe Winn-Dixie? What is it about the dog that makes him appealing to her?
- 2) Why did Kate DiCamillo choose to call her book *Because of Winn-Dixie*? What does the title mean to you?
- 3) Why is it sometimes easier to talk to or be friends with a pet than with people? Why can having a pet be important?