June 2016

Dear Families,

It is that time again when we start thinking about the wonderful summer ahead and planning how to spend our time during those hot sunny days. It is our hope that, when planning what to pack for camp, vacation, or a sleepover, our children will remember to pack their favorite book or magazine to bring along, too! Attached is a list of suggested book titles. (This list is also available on the Springhurst website.) We hope you will find this list helpful when visiting the public library or local bookstore. Please remember that these books are suggestions and are not required reading.

Our readers have strong opinions about themselves as readers. Some will say, “I like reading fantasy” or “I like to read a whole series in order”, or “I am more of a nonfiction reader”. We hope that these lists will offer plenty of opportunities for your child to find the right books for him or her this summer. There is a book out there for everyone, for sure! Please note that the books on the list represent a range of difficulty levels. The children know what a “just right” book is for them and should be able to choose a book that they will be able to read comfortably.

Springhurst School also has a subscription to a fun, reading program that you and your child can access from home this summer anywhere there is an internet connection. Scholastic BookFlix is an online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks from Weston Woods with related non-fiction eBooks from Scholastic. This interactive resource also includes Spanish versions for many of their paired texts, a read aloud component in which children can hear a narrated story and definitions of key words, and educational games and activities.

To access our school’s subscription, follow these easy instructions:

- Go to: http://auth.grolier.com/login/bookflix/login.php
- User Name: springsch
- Password: bookflix

ReadWorks.org also offers a free online set of books called SummerReads. These passages are written at accessible levels for students entering 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade and cover engaging topics related to summer. Each is ready for student use complete with comprehension questions.

- Go to: http://goo.gl/oxhJn6

We hope that you have a fun-filled, story-filled summer and we will see you all in September!

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Susan Frey          Mrs. Michelle Kaczmarek
Springhurst Librarian          K - 8 Literacy Coordinator
2016 Summer Reading Suggestions
Entering Grade 5

**Elle’s Story** by W. Bruce Camerson
Ellie is a very special dog with a very important purpose. From puppyhood, Ellie has been trained as a search-and-rescue dog. She can tract down a lost child in a forest or an injured victim under a fallen building. She finds people. She saves them. It's what she was meant to do.

**Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall** by Anita Silvey
Jane Goodall always loved animals, ever since her childhood. This biography features gorgeous, full-color photographs, primary sources, and fun nature facts about this inspiring and intelligent woman.

**Crenshaw** by Katherine Applegate
Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for the rent and not much food either. It's understandably a shock to Jackson when an old friend reappears: Crenshaw, a seven-foot-tall talking cat.

**Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France** by Mara Rockliff
Discover how Ben Franklin's scientific method challenged a certain Dr. Mesmer's mysterious powers in this book about a true moment in history.

**Feeding the Flying Fanellis: And Other Poems from a Circus Chef** by Kate Hosford
What do you feed a trapeze family to keep them up in the air? How do you feed a fire-eater with a penchant for hot sauce? Or feed a lion with a gourmet palate? Find out what keeps these performers going in these amusing poems from their jolly chef!

**The Terrible Two** by Jory John and Mac Barnett
Miles Murphy is not happy about moving to Yawnee Valley, a sleepy town famous for one thing: cows. In his old school, he was the town's best prankster, but he quickly discovers that Yawnee Valley already has a prankster, and a great one.

**Castle Hangnail** by Ursula Vernon
The Castle Hangnail has been sitting without a master for several years and is threatened with decommissioning. When Molly shows up to fill the vacancy for a wicked witch, the castle's minions are understandably concerned. After all, she is twelve-years-old, barely five feet tall, and quite polite.

**Book Scavenger** by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
Join twelve-year-old Emily in the Book Scavenger game that involves hiding books, finding clues, and tracking them down for points and bragging rights. This book weaves in mysteries, puzzles, and a secret treasure with the real histories of beloved authors.

**How to Swallow a Pig** by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
Outlined in this fun and fascinating non-fiction book are 18 step-by-step animal behaviors that explain such things as how whales fish, wasps build nests, and grebes dance.

**I Yam a Donkey** by Cece Bell
In this hilarious book, a donkey declares, “I yam a donkey!” and a yam tries to correct his grammar. The conversation eventually attracts the attention of a carrot, turnip, and a bunch of green beans that are used as examples in the yam’s unsuccessful grammar lessons.

**Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton** by Don Tate
Growing up a slave in the nineteenth century, George taught himself to read and earned money to purchase his time, though not his freedom. He became the first African American to be published in the South, protesting slavery in the form of verse.