Rochambeau & Memorial Middle Schools
Entering Grade 6
2014
Summer Reading Suggestions
June 2014

Dear Students Entering Sixth Grade:

Welcome to Rochambeau & Memorial Middle Schools’ 2014 summer reading program. One of our exciting school goals is to help you develop into lifelong readers. Reading enriches life in so many ways. It helps you create ideas, imagine possibilities, challenge positions, learn information, and connect to a variety of people and places. Of course it is also a lot of fun. This summer, in between camp and hanging out, your goal is to read at least three books. The following list has some great suggestions, but you don’t need to read books from this list. Feel free to browse a book store or library and find your own choices. There are also suggested websites inside this brochure to help you locate a great book. In the fall, we will be asking you to do two things:

1. Share a list of the books you most enjoyed reading.
2. Participate in a Summer Reading activity in your English class. This may be in the form of a discussion or book review.

Ultimately we hope that you discuss your summer reading books with family members and friends and create an important place in your life for reading.

Sincerely,
Rochambeau & Memorial’s Staff of Readers

On the web

Young adult book lists ranging from Quick Picks for the Reluctant Young Reader to Popular Paperbacks.
Guysread.com Web-based literacy program for boys. Books guys want to read.
Newbery Medal Home Page http://www.al.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbymedal/
newbymedallists/medalwinners Lists Newbery Medal winners, 1922-present.
Nutmeg Book Award, www.nutmegaward.org Encourages children grades 4-8 to read quality literature.

Discovery: the Real Stuff

Amelia Lost: The Life & Disappearance of Amelia Earhart Candace Fleming
Unique nonfiction, alternating between Amelia’s life and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself.

Becoming Ben Franklin Russell Freedman
A riveting story of how a rebellious apprentice became an American icon.

Big Ideas that Changed the World Isabel Thomas
Read & marvel at the stories behind some of the world’s most amazing discoveries that have made a sensation, from the first wheel to satellite navigation, the Model T Ford, & Edison’s light bulb.

Courage Has No Color Tanya Lee Stone
The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America’s First Black Paratroopers.

Leon’s Story Leon Walter Tillage
What price do you put on a human life? This is one man’s story, though one shared by thousands of African Americans across the United States before, during, and after the Civil Rights Movement.

The New Way Things Work David Macaulay
How do things work? This illustrated, humorous, easy-to-understand book richly shows how everything from a toilet to a fire extinguisher works.

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners Marc Aronson
What could have been a terrible tragedy became an amazing story of survival.
Authors of Adventure

James Patterson

Maximum Ride series: Angel Experiment, School's Out—Forever, Saving the World, Final Warning, Max, Fang, Angel and Nevermore.

Gary Paulsen

Adventures of different times: Woods Runner, Tracker, Dogsong, and Harris and Me.
A touch of autobiography: Woodsong and Guts.

Rick Riordan

The Kane Chronicles trilogy: The Red Pyramid, The Throne of Fire & The Serpent's Shadow.

Roland Smith

Life on the run: Zach's Lie, Jack's Run (sequel).
Uncovering Secrets: Cryptid Hunters, Tentacles, Chupacabra (sequel).
Storm Runners series: Storm Runners, The Surge and Eruption.
Other Novels: The Captain's Dog, Elephant Run, Peak—a 2010 featured book and Sasquatch.

Fantasy

Beyonders—a trilogy Brandon Mull
Written by a former Rochambeau student and the author of the Fablehaven series!
An addictive blend of fantasy, humor, and heroic quest.
Enjoy A World Without Heroes, Seeds of Rebellion and Chasing the Prophecy.

Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman—2014 Nutmeg Nominee Meg Wolitzer
A Scrabble game brings together three teens each struggling with his/her own differences.

The Hypnotists—a new series Gordon Korman
Jackson has always been persuasive, but he doesn't know that he's descended from the two most powerful hypnotist bloodlines on the planet. Soon he will have to find a way to use his powers to save his friends, his parents, and his government. Also Memory Maze—July 29, 2014 publication.

Lockwood & Co. The Screaming Staircase Jonathan Stroud
The British Isles have become plagued with ghostly Visitors and three teens have formed a company to help rid them from the country—for a fee. Also The Whispering Skull—September 2014

Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25—a Series Richard Paul Evans
Michael and Taylor have electric powers. As they try and figure out how they ended up with these, they are discovered by a group who wants to control the teens and through them, the world.

Mind Games Kiersten White
Fia and Annie have unique talents—Fia can perceive what people will do and Annie has visions of the past and future...and now someone is trying to manipulate them. Also enjoy Perfect Lies.

Spirit and Dust Rosemary Clement-Moore
Since Daisy can speak to the dead, she is kidnapped and forced to help a mob-boss find his missing daughter. Mystery, romance and humor combined. Also enjoy Texas Gothic.
## Great Middle School Stories of Growing Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counting By 7s</td>
<td>Holly Goldberg Sloan</td>
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<tr>
<td>An intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.</td>
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<td>Do Not Pass Go</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick Hill</td>
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<td>When Deet’s father is arrested for drug use, Deet cannot believe it. But Dad was working two jobs to make more money and taking pills to stay awake during the night shift. And now he’s in jail. Hurt, scared, and angry, Deet doesn’t want to see his father in prison. But when Mom goes back to work and no longer has the time, Deet decides to start visiting his dad after school.</td>
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<td>The Last Dragonslayer—2015 Nutmeg Nominee</td>
<td>Jasper Fforde</td>
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<td>In a world where magic may be fading away, Jennifer my be the newest and final Dragonslayer.</td>
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<td>London Calling</td>
<td>Edward Bloor</td>
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<td>Unhappy seventh-grader Martin Conway is given an antique radio, transported back to World War II London, and befriended by a boy named Jimmy who convinces him to get involved in the war effort.</td>
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<td>Mindblind—2014 Nutmeg Nominee</td>
<td>Jennifer Roy</td>
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<td>People say Nathaniel is a genius, but according to a book he once read, a true genius uses his talent to make a contribution to the world. Nathaniel takes the definition literally and begins his quest for genius status.</td>
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<td>Now is the Time for Running—2014 Nutmeg Nominee</td>
<td>Michael Williams</td>
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<td>Deo and his friends play soccer in the dusty fields of Zimbabwe on a day like any other...until the soldiers arrive and Deo and his brother are forced to run for their lives, fleeing the wreckage of their village for the distant promise of a safe haven in South Africa. Along the way, they face the prejudice and poverty that greet refugees everywhere, but Deo eventually finds hope on the World Cup street soccer team—a possible ticket out of extreme hardship to a new life.</td>
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<td>Okay for Now—2014 Nutmeg Nominee</td>
<td>Gary D. Schmidt</td>
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<td>As Doug struggles to be more than the “skinny thug” that his teachers and the police think he is, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer. In Lil, Doug finds the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a whole town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam.</td>
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<td>One for the Murphys—2015 Nutmeg Nominee</td>
<td>Lynda Mullaly Hunt</td>
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<td>Garley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she’s blindsided.</td>
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<td>Out of My Mind—2014 Nutmeg Award Winner</td>
<td>Sharon Draper</td>
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<td>Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her cerebral palsy. And she is determined to let everyone know it...somehow.</td>
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<td>Savvy—a 2011 featured book</td>
<td>Ingrid Law</td>
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<td>The Beaumont family has a magical secret. They each possess a “savvy”, a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity... and now it’s the eve of Mibs’s big day...</td>
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<td>See You at Harry’s—2015 Nutmeg Nominee</td>
<td>Jo Knowles</td>
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<td>Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible. It seems as though everyone in her family has better things to do than to pay attention to her. Then tragedy strikes, and Fern feels responsible for the accident that has wrecked her family apart and changed their lives forever.</td>
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Reading in Fun Formats

Addie on the Inside  James Howe
As seventh grade progresses, Addie’s not so sure anymore about who she is. It seems her tough exterior is just a little too tough and that doesn’t help her deal with the turmoil she feels on the inside as she faces the pains of growing up. Told in elegant, accessible verse.

The Fog Mound—a series  Schade and Buller
A series of graphic novels tells the story of Theolonius, a chipmunk who searches for an answer to the ultimate question: What happened to all the humans? Enjoy the series: Travels of Thelonious, Faradawn and Simon’s Dream.

I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I want to be your ...  Josh Li
Oliver has a secret; he is the world’s third-richest person; he overthrows foreign dictators, owns corporations, is a successful inventor and investor, and is on the way to attaining his goal of world domination. But what Oliver really wants is his father’s attention and approval which he hopes to get by winning the election for president of his eighth-grade class.

Knucklehead  Jon Scieszka
This short, sweet autobiography of the author covers growing up with five brothers, baseball, fire, and peeing. Using short chapters and a scrapbook format, it will definitely make you laugh.

Who Done It?  Jon Scieszka
An anthology of alibis—80 YA authors, and suspects in the murder of Herman Mildew, share their alibis...but they are all liars and have something to hide...

Wonderstruck  Brian Selznick
From the author of The Invention of Hugo Cabret: Ben is struck deaf moments after discovering a clue to his father’s identity, but undaunted, he follows the clue’s trail to the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City. Flash to Rose’s story, told simultaneously through pictures, who has also followed the trail of a loved one to the museum—only 50 years before Ben. Ultimately, their lives collide in a surprising and inspired twist.

Inspired by True Life Experiences

All of the Above  Shelly Pearsall
James, Rhondell, Sharice, and Marcel attend the same inner-city school. Their teacher, Mr. Collins, challenges these diverse students to build the world’s biggest Sierpinski tetrahedron in an after-school club. Based on a true story.

Guys Write series  Edited by Jon Scieszka

Short:  Walking Tall When You’re Not Tall At All  John Schwartz
A survival guide to growing up short. Part science book, part memoir—a book for everyone concerned about looking (or feeling) different.

Tillie Pierce  Tanya Anderson
Biography of a teen who thought she was getting farther from the battle and ended up tending to the wounded at the edge of the Civil War’s Battle of Gettysburg.
Sports—Mike Lupica and MORE!

The Final Four—2015 Nutmeg Nominee  
Paul Volponi
It’s the semifinal game of March Madness—as the teams race to find victory, the stories of how each player arrived there are revealed.

Million Dollar Shot  
Dan Gutman
Eddie Ball lives in a cramped trailer and dreams of moving to a "regular house." Eddie enters his friend Annie’s poems in a poetry contest and gets a chance to sink a foul shot during halftime at the first game of the NBA finals for a million-dollar prize. Can he make the basket?

One Handed Catch  
M.J. Auch
Losing a hand doesn’t mean Norm loses his dreams. It just means it will take hard work and humor to succeed at everything from everyday tasks to playing baseball.

Pop—a 2011 featured book  
Gordon Korman
Marcus is new in town and spends his summer practicing football alone at a local park, hoping to meet someone from the high school team. Instead, he meets an eccentric middle-aged man who teaches him more about football, tackling, and the art of the "pop" than he could have imagined, but this new friendship is more complicated than it first seems.

Throwing Strikes: The Quest for the Perfect Knuckleball  
R.A. Dickey
An inspiring true story about one of the most respected pitchers in the game—R.A. is proof that with hard work and devotion, anyone can overcome whatever life throws at him.

Tim Green

Baseball Great Series: Baseball Great, Best of the Best, Pinch Hit and Rivals.
Other Novels: Unstoppable, Pinch Hit, Force Out and New Kid.

Mike Lupica

Game Changers Series: Game Changers, Play Makers, and Heavy Hitters.
Comeback Kid Series: Two-Minute Drill, Hot Hand, Safe at Home, Long Shot and Shoot Out. Travel Team, Summer Ball (sequel).
Other Novels: True Legend, Hero, Underdogs, Million-Dollar Throw, Batboy, Miracle on 49th Street, The Big Field and QB1.

Mystery

Closed for the Season—2014 Nutmeg Nominee  
Mary Downing Hahn
Seventh-grader Logan learns that a murder had been committed in his family’s new house three years earlier. Logan’s neighbor Arthur thinks Mrs. Donaldson was falsely accused and wants Logan to help him find the real perpetrator.

Deep and Dark and Dangerous  
Mary Downing Hahn
Ali finds an old family photograph, but who is the person who’s been torn out of the picture? Ali is dying to find out, and if she’s not careful, that’s exactly what might happen to her.

Echo Falls Mystery—a series  
Peter Abrahams
Each mystery starts with puzzling questions that spring right from eighth-grader, Ingrid Levin-Hill’s own life. The author’s exceptional overlay of detail makes these stories very convincing as the action builds. Enjoy Down the Rabbit Hole, Behind the Curtain and Into the Dark.

Potato Chip Puzzles—a 2013 Nutmeg Nominee  
Eric Berlin
When a local potato chip tycoon invites area kids to an all-day puzzle hunt, Winston Breen is psyched. But trying to stop a mystery cheater before it’s too late takes an already tough challenge to a whole new level… Also The Puzzling World of Winston Breen & The Puzzler’s Mansion.
Science Fiction

Double Identity—a 2011 featured book
Margaret Haddix
What would you do if your parents dropped you off in the middle of the night, at an unknown aunt’s house, in an unknown town, where everyone you met looked at you as if they just saw a ghost?

The Eleventh Plague
Jeff Hirsch
In the aftermath of a war, America’s landscape has been ravaged and two-thirds of the population left dead from a vicious strain of influenza. Fifteen-year-old Stephen Quinn and his family were among the few that survived and became salvagers, roaming the country in search of material to trade. When Stephen and a new friend play a prank that goes horribly wrong, chaos erupts, and they find themselves in the midst of a battle that will change their lives forever.

Insignia—2015 Nutmeg Nominee
S.J. Kincaid
An elite military academy recruits Tom Raines to train to become a soldier in outer space, and he can’t believe his good fortune. As his training begins, though, Tom finds he might have to sacrifice more than he’d thought in order to succeed.

The Missing—a series
Margaret Haddix
Jonah and his friend Chip begin receiving ominous messages declaring that they are among “the missing” and that someone is coming to find them. Frightened, yet intrigued, the boys begin a search for their real identities. Enjoy the series: Found, Sent, Sabotaged, Torn, and Caught.

The Seems: The Glitch in Sleep
John Hulme
Seventh-grader Becker Drane works for the Seems, a secret organization that makes sure the world keeps running.

Taken
Edward Bloor
In this tense thriller set 30 years in the future, thirteen-year-old Charity Meyers is kidnapped. Her parents have 24 hours to pay for her freedom. Hold on as the clock ticks.

2015 Nutmeg Nominees

Don’t Turn Around—2015 Nutmeg Nominee
Michelle Gagnon
When computer genius, Noa, wakes up in a warehouse with an IV in her arm and no memory of how she got there, she starts to wish that she had someone on her side...

Eye of the Storm—2015 Nutmeg Nominee
Kate Messner
Jaden’s summer visit with her father, who has just returned from spending four years in Russia conducting experiments not permitted in the United States, fills her with apprehension and fear.

The False Prince—a trilogy, 2015 Nutmeg Nominee
Jennifer Nielsen
In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. Sage must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage’s rivals have their own agendas as well. An extraordinary adventure filled with danger and action, lies and deadly truths that will have readers clinging to the edge of their seats. Also The Runaway King and The Shadow Throne.

Guitar Notes—2015 Nutmeg Nominee
Mary Amato
When forced to share a practice room, and a guitar, perfect student, Lyla, and loner, Tripp, begin to correspond through a series of heated notes. A friendship develops as they discover that they really “get” one another, but can they overcome their differences?

The Raft—2015 Nutmeg Nominee
S.A. Bodeen
When Robie’s plane crashes into the Pacific Ocean, she must depend on the plane’s co-pilot, Max, and a life raft for survival. As their water disappears and the evidence of sharks in the water mounts, Robie isn’t sure that they’ll make it until a team can rescue them.
History With a Dash of Fiction

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift’s “Chocolate Pilot”  Michael Tunnell

City of Orphans—2014 Nutmeg Nominee  Avi
A look into the world of Manhattan, New York, 1893—dramatic contrasts of the Mak family’s tenement existence, the city’s infamous prison, and the splendor of the Waldorf, come together to create a terrifically exciting read.

Escape From Saigon  Andrea Warren
A true account of a mixed-raced, orphaned boy with little future in Vietnam. Experience Long’s struggle to survive in war-torn Vietnam, his dramatic escape to America as part of “Operation Babylift” during the last chaotic days before the fall of Saigon, and his life in the United States.

Iron Thunder  Avi
Thirteen-year-old Tom Carroll finds work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on a secret project that may benefit the Northern armies during the Civil War. Pursued by spies from the South, he ends up in the middle of a sea battle. Will he find the courage to survive?

Home of the Brave  Katherine Applegate
Kek has traveled from his family home in Africa to a new life in the U.S. As Kek awaits word of his mother’s fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country - America.

Lincoln’s Grave Robbers  Steve Sheinkin
The plan: grab Lincoln's body from its Springfield tomb, stash it in the sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and demand, as a ransom, the release of Ben Boyd—and $200,000 in cash. Follow the story of the conspirators, the Secret Service agents on their trail, and the undercover agent moving back and forth between the two groups.

Lions of Little Rock—2014 Nutmeg Nominee, 2013 Featured Book  Kristen Levine
In Little Rock, Arkansas 1958 politics rage over integrating schools. Marlee 13, is a math whiz, but terrified to speak in public. Then a new girl, Lizzie, encourages Marlee to do an oral presentation with her—until Lizzie is thrown out of school when the town discovers she is a light-skinned black passing for white. Marlee and Lizzie meet secretly until it becomes too dangerous...

One Came Home  Amy Timberlake
Wisconsin, in 1871, 13-year-old Georgie’s mother identifies bits of a body belonging to her oldest daughter, Agatha, but Georgie is not convinced. The blue-green dress on the corpse may have belonged to her sister, but what does that really prove?

One Crazy Summer  Rita Williams-Garcia
Set during a pivotal moment in African American history, this vibrant novel shows the subtle ways that political movements affect personal lives. Also Enjoy P.S. Be Eleven

The Red Umbrella  Christina Gonzalez
When Castro comes to power, teenage Lucía wants nothing to do with the revolution; she is more worried about what to wear to the school dance. Then she witnesses the horrifying public hanging of her father’s boss, and her parents send her and her little brother to safety in the U.S., where a church places them in a kind foster home in Nebraska where everything is strange and different.

The Year of Goodbyes  Debbie Levy
Jutta was one of the lucky ones—a twelve-year-old Jewish girl who immigrated to America in 1938, escaping the Nazi violence in Europe. She took with her an autograph book filled with memories of friends and relatives to whom she’d have to say goodbye.

Cover art by Rachel Z