

**This summer...**

**BE AN INCREDIBLE READER**



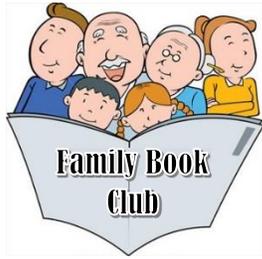
**Dear Parents:**

Welcome to the 2018  
Lower School Summer Reading Challenge!

You have a very important part in completing our summer reading challenge with **The Family Book Club!**

This packet explains the Family Book Club, an incredibly important part of the summer reading challenge that includes you, your family, and **the Power of Reading Together.**

**Very Important Paper: Please read this!**



# The Family Book Club

The Power of Reading Together: An important part of the Lower School Summer Reading Challenge

## Introducing The Family Book Club:

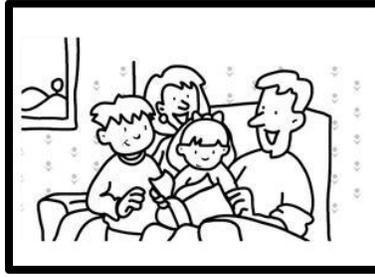
- The Family Book Club is when all members of your family gather to read and share the selected books together.
- Book selections for The Family Book Club have been made with multiple ages in mind, so it doesn't matter the ages or grades of children in the family.
- Parents make time to read to their children and families discuss the books together.

## How The Family Book Club works in our LS summer reading challenge:

- Everyone in LS reads **both** Family Book Club titles listed in the summer reading packet.
- Make time to read these books with ALL members of your family together – pets too!
- Talk about the books with each other:
  - What did you like? What surprised you? How did you feel when \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_ happened? What would you do if that was you?
  - What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character?
- Help your child answer the question about The Family Book Club in their booklet AND take a picture for our Wall of Fame showing your family reading a book from your child's assigned summer reading list!

## Why we have The Family Book Club:

- This gives all of us a common reading experience, which strengthens our LS community.
- Shared reading experiences have been shown to have incredibly positive impacts on parents and children – a perfect reason to add it to the LS summer reading experience.



## **The Power of Reading Together – Research Results**

**There is incredible power in parents and children reading together.**

- “Reading to children strengthens the emotional bonds between the adult reader and the child, providing those positive parent-child connections essential to a child’s psychological health and academic growth.” (<http://readtothem.org/why/overview>)
- “Family literacy is a critical piece of the puzzle in helping children become readers.”  
(Gary Anderson, program director and founder of Read to Them)

**This powerful connection is not just something that matters when children are younger, but also matters as children reach the upper grades of school as well.**

- Nearly one in four parents of children ages 6–17 (23%) stopped reading aloud to their children before age 9, most often citing reasons related to their child reading independently. Yet many children ages 6–11 (40%) did not want their parents to stop reading aloud to them. (Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report: Fifth Edition)

**Statistics show how reading aloud with a parent positively impacts student success.**

- “Reading aloud sharpens the imagination, creates healthy dialogue, and engenders in children a love of reading. Children who learn to listen eventually learn to read, and literacy skills provide the basis for a lifetime of learning and productivity.” (<http://readtothem.org/why/overview>)

**Reading experiences strengthen the connection between parents and children.**

- When it comes to being read aloud to at home, more than eight in 10 children (83%) across age groups say that love(d) or like(d) it a lot—the main reason being it was a special time with parents. (Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report: Fifth Edition)

**Reading printed books for pleasure is still important to children and youth of all ages**

- Half of all children ages 6-17 (51%) are currently reading a book for fun, and another one in five (20%) just finished one and nearly two out of three children (65%) agree that they will always want to read books in print even through there are ebooks available. (Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report: Fifth Edition)



## The Power of Reading Together – More Resources

### ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Read to Them: Why Reading Aloud Matters  
<http://readtothem.org/why/>
- Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report  
<http://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/>
- National Reading Panel  
<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/Pages/nrp.aspx>
- Reading is Fundamental (search: Reading Aloud)  
[www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)
- Read Aloud 15 Minutes  
<http://www.readaloud.org/index.html>
- The Children’s Reading Foundation  
<https://readingfoundation.org/the-solution/for-parents/>
- National Association for the Education of Young Children  
<http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/200303/ReadingAloud.pdf>
- Jim Trelease, nationwide expert on reading aloud to children  
<http://www.trelease-on-reading.com>

### BOOKS TO READ:

- ***Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever***  
by Mem Fox
- ***The Read-Aloud Handbook*** by Jim Trelease