As we welcome our students to middle school, our teachers will focus on getting to know them, and assist them in making the transition into sixth grade. We realize at this point in a child’s life, who they will sit with at lunch is far more important than returning completed emergency cards.

In our grade 6 Literacy class, we purposefully begin trimester one with narrative writing. This type of writing allows us to explore fictional characters along with ourselves. In order to write fiction, we must look at models of fiction. We can talk about the character traits we value while evaluating the actions of characters in our readings. Reading literature allows us to explore human society. It asks us to build empathy for things we may not currently understand and to discover cultures and places we may never have a chance to personally explore.

September in grade six is a month of new beginnings: a time to meet new people, be challenged by a new environment, and get excited to learn new things in a whole different structure.

Thank you for entrusting your students to us.

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**A COMMUNITY OF READERS CELEBRATION**

Our two goals for summer reading are to inspire a lifelong love of reading and to promote and develop literacy skills. This fall, students will meet with teachers and students who read the same book, and they will have a chance to interact and share with one another using their chosen book as a foundation.

There will be no test or project; it will simply be a time to engage with others around reading. If you don’t already know, ask your child which book group they are joining.

**Community of Readers Celebration Dates:**

- NMS: October 25, 2017
- SMS: November 2, 2017

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**Why Can’t I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student “A”</th>
<th>Student “B”</th>
<th>Student “C”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reads 20 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 5 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 1 minute each day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3600 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>900 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>180 minutes in a school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **1,800,000 words**
- **282,000 words**
- **8,000 words**

By the end of 6th grade Student “A” will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student “B” will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Stajski & McHale, 2007)