

Dear Future Fourth Graders,

We know that you will include reading good books among your summer vacation activities and we can't wait to hear about the ones you choose to read! In preparation for fourth grade, we would like you to put ***Hank Zipzer, Niagara Falls or Does It?*** by Henry Winkler on your reading list. We will incorporate this book into our language arts activities in September. You will also find great summer reading books on our 4th grade summer reading list. Please choose at least one other book from this list to read before school starts.

As rising fourth graders, you will be required to complete some math work over the summer. Our math coordinator, Mr. Lobato, has created a website where you can find all the information you need. To access it please go to:

<https://sites.google.com/friendsacademy1810.org/fasummermath/home>

We will also be using the program, IXL, in math. It requires a username, which is your first initial and your last name, (ex. dlobato), and a password which is the same for everyone: math1810 . Please contact Mr. Lobato if you have any questions:

dlobato@friendsacademy1810.org and have fun!

To keep your math skills sharp, be sure to practice your multiplication facts as much as possible over the summer! Try to practice for ten minutes per day. Fourth graders need to know their facts from one to ten; this will ensure a solid foundation for all of the creative thinking and problem solving that we will be doing together in math. Some fourth graders find flashcards helpful, others like to use websites (like xtramath.org) or computer games. The more confident you are with your math facts, the easier (and more fun!) math will be for you this upcoming year.

In fourth grade we will begin to type many of our writing projects. In our technological world, typing is a valuable skill. We ask that you practice your typing; the best approach is lots of practice for short amounts of time. For best practice, typing for ten minutes per day is ideal. Your Type-to-Learn subscription from third grade will continue through the summer. You can download the program onto your home computer and we can keep track of how you are doing from the online database. The instructions are included under *forms*.

Have a wonderful summer vacation! We are **so** excited to see you in September.

Warmly,
Ms. Pindell and Ms. Conlon

Suggested Reading

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When 11-year-old Marty Preston finds a young beagle pup in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia, he is convinced that the poor pup is in trouble. Certain that the dog is being abused by his owner, Judd Travers, Marty names him "Shiloh" and immediately feels that he will do anything to save the dog from further harm.

Love That Dog by Sharon Creech

Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments — and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

For all the ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, Hà discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food . . . and the strength of her very own family.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick

Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.

Masterminds by Gordon Korman

Serenity, New Mexico, is a town no one would want to leave. But after Eli discovers he can't, his curiosity unveils Serenity's connection to dastardly criminals.

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Fifth grader Nick Allen knows just how to make school more cool. Now in fifth grade, he's come up with his most ingenious idea yet. After learning about the origins of words, he decides to change the word pen to frindle. At first, it seems like a harmless prank, a way to annoy his dictionary-obsessed teacher. Then the whole class starts using the new word, and the joke spreads across town like wildfire. Suddenly Nick finds himself in the middle of a media frenzy over frindle. Will Nick emerge from the controversy a troublemaker or a hero?

Hard Gold: The Colorado Gold Rush of 1859 - I Witness Novels - by Avi

Early Whitcomb's family needs a miracle. Their Iowa farm has been in the family for generations, but a long drought has withered their savings and left them in debt. Meanwhile, the great Chicago and Northwestern Railroad wants their land, and if the Whitcombs can't pay their loans, the local banker, Judge Fuslin, will foreclose and sell the farm as his own.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete.

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings. The voice is so authentic, you will feel as if you are sitting on dusty bleachers listening intently to the memories of a man who has known the great ballplayers of that time and shared their experiences.

The Lemonade War (Book 1) by Jacqueline Davies

With just five days left of summer vacation, Evan and Jessie launch an all-out war to see who can sell the most lemonade before school starts. As the battleground heats up, there really is no telling who will win — or if their fight will ever end.

The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo

Walking through the misty Florida woods one morning, twelve-year-old Rob Horton is stunned to encounter a tiger — a real-life, very large tiger — pacing back and forth in a cage. What's more, on the same extraordinary day, he meets Sistine Bailey, a girl who shows her feelings as readily as Rob hides his.

***Night of the Spadefoot Toad* by Bill Harley**

When his father takes a new job in Massachusetts, Ben Moroney must leave behind his best friend Tony, a western banded gecko named Lenny, and worst of all, the desert home he has loved and explored.

***Prairie Evers* by Ellen Airgood**

Ten-year-old Prairie is happy being home-schooled and raising her flock of chickens, so transferring to regular school is a big change, but fortunately she meets a wonderful friend.

***Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage**

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

***Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita Williams-Garcia**

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half sister, Miss Trotter. The two half sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible.

***Nightmares* by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller**

Twelve-year-old Charlie and his friends must stop nightmares from taking over their town before it's too late.

***The Aurora County All-Stars* by Deborah Wiles**

Twelve-year-old House Jackson, team captain and star pitcher of the Aurora County All-Stars, is finally ready to play again after being sidelined for a year with a broken elbow, but a standoff ensues when the team's big game is scheduled for the same day as Aurora County's two-hundredth anniversary pageant--an event directed by the very girl who caused Jackson's injury.

***Bounders* by Monica Tesler**

Twelve-year-old Jasper and his friends are the first group of cadets, called Bounders, to be trained as astronauts who use new spaceships to teleport, but soon are forced to go up against an alien society seeking revenge for stealing this brain-sync technology.

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper**

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

***Dangerous Waters: An Adventure on Titanic* by Gregory Mone**

The great ocean liner Titanic is preparing to cross the Atlantic. On board is a sinister thief bent on stealing a rare book that may be the key to unlocking infinite treasure, a wealthy academic traveling home to America with his rare book collection, and Patrick Waters, a twelve-year-old Irish boy who is certain that his job as a steward on the unsinkable ship will be the adventure of a lifetime.

***Bo At Ballard Creek* by Kirkpatrick Hill**

"It's the 1920s, and Bo was headed for an Alaska orphanage when she won the hearts of two tough gold miners who set out to raise her, enthusiastically helped by all the kind people of the nearby Eskimo village"--Provided by publisher.

***The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* by Dana Alison Levy**

Relates the adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year, Kindergarten through sixth grade, and deal with a grumpy new neighbor.

***Escape from Mr. Limoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein**

"Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape"

***Story Thieves* by James Riley**

Except for reading the Kiel Gnomesfoot magic adventure series, Owen's life is boring until he sees his classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the school library and he learns that Bethany is half-fictional and has been searching every book she can find for her missing father, a fictional character.

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick**

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly turns upside down, Hugo's undercover life and his most precious secret are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

***Riding Freedom* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.