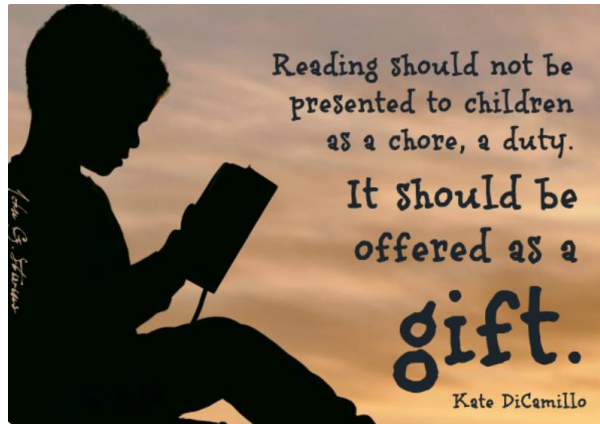


Summer Reading



June 2022

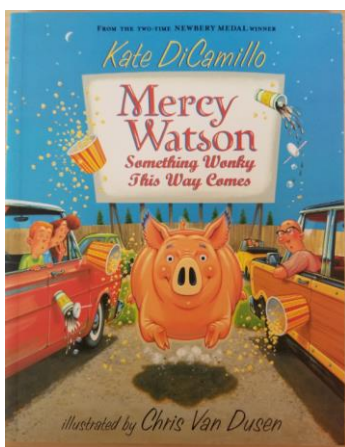
Dear Families of First Graders,

Students need a strong foundation in reading and writing to reach their full potential. Reading outside of the classroom is critical for maintaining and expanding a child's literacy skills, especially over the extended summer break. Research suggests that students should spend a minimum of 20 minutes a day reading. This could be listening to a book read aloud or practicing their own reading skills. Conversations about each book increase enjoyment and connection to texts.

Timberlane's summer goal is simple: Help students connect with books (both fiction and nonfiction) to grow a love for learning and engagement in texts. This will inspire students to become lifelong readers. To this end, we are gifting each student with a book that we hope will be read and reread over the summer.

Students at each grade level, returning to our elementary schools next year, are receiving a book by the author Kate DiCamillo. If you have children in multiple grades, encourage them to share similarities and differences in the books she writes.

Incoming Second Graders are receiving:



Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes by Kate DiCamillo. Some may find it wonky to take a pig to the drive-in. But not the Watsons, who think the movie's title, *When Pigs Fly*, is inspirational. And not their beloved Mercy, who is inspired by the scent of real butter from the theater's Bottomless Buckets of popcorn. As they pull up in their convertible, Mercy lifts up her snout and becomes a pig on a mission, leading a delirious chase that's trailed by rescuers reunited from Mercy's earlier adventures.

With the book comes the expectation that your child will read this book, *at least once*, during the summer months. The book may be too challenging for your child to read independently, so we encourage you to use it as a read-aloud. Rereading is a valuable reading strategy which encourages the reader to notice details that went unnoticed the first time.

At the start of the school year, expect your child's teacher to follow up with lessons and activities based upon this delightful book. On the reverse side of this letter, you will find author information and optional activities to support reading.

Happy Reading!

One way to share and celebrate reading is to visit local bookstores or libraries and peruse selections. Be sure to check out local area library schedules for events occurring during the summer months!

Atkinson <https://kimballlibrary.com/>
Danville <https://colbymemoriallibrary.org/>
Sandown <https://www.sandownlibrary.us/>
Plaistow <https://www.plaistowlibrary.com/>

Below are some optional activities to go with your summer reading book, *Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes* by Kate DiCamillo.

- Visit <https://www.katedicamillo.com/> to find out more about the author, Kate DiCamillo.
- Draw your 3 favorite scenes from the book. Write a sentence about each scene.
- “When pigs fly” is a figure of speech (when words are used in an unusual way in order to produce a different meaning) that means “that will never happen.” Here are some other figures of speech. What does each expression really mean?
 - hit the road
 - dog tired
 - weighs a ton
 - a fish out of water
 - stay on your toes
 - she’s a night owl
 - time is money
 - once in a blue moon
 - it costs an arm and a leg
 - a piece of cake
- Read another book from the Mercy Watson series. Compare the books. How are the 2 books alike? How are they different?
 - Mercy Watson to the Rescue*
 - Mercy Watson Goes For a Ride*
 - Mercy Watson Fights Crime*
 - Mercy Watson: Princess in Disguise*
 - Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig*
- As you read the book, match the characters with the correct information.

___ 1. Mercy Watson	A. made lots of toast for everyone
___ 2. Mrs. Watson	B. wanted to be a cowboy
___ 3. Mr. Watson	C. were the last people to get in the car
___ 4. Baby and Eugenia	D. used a net at the Drive-In
___ 5. Frank and Stella	E. sold tickets at the Bijou Drive-In
___ 6. Officer Tomilello	F. drove the convertible to the Drive-In
___ 7. Francine Poulet	G. followed the smell of butter
___ 8. Leroy Ninker	H. carried a bullhorn
___ 9. Beatrice Leapaleoni	I. rode in a fire truck
___ 10. Ned and Lorenzo	J. lived next door to the Watsons

Kate DiCamillo

Kate DiCamillo's writing journey has been a truly remarkable one. She grew up in Florida and moved to Minnesota in her twenties, when homesickness and a bitter winter led her to write *Because of Winn-Dixie* — her first published novel, which became a runaway bestseller and snapped up a Newbery Honor. *The Tiger Rising*, her second novel, was also set in Florida and went on to become a National Book Award finalist. Since then, the best-selling author has explored settings as varied as a medieval castle and a magician's theater while continuing to enjoy great success, winning two Newbery Medals and being named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She now has almost 30 million books in print worldwide.

Now, for the first time ever, Kate DiCamillo is returning to the world of a previous novel to tell us more about a character whom her fans already know and love. In *Louisiana's Way Home*, set two years after the events of National Book Award finalist *Raymie Nightingale*, she picks up the story of Raymie's friend Louisiana Elefante, who uncovers difficult truths about her past — and makes choices that will determine her future.

Kate DiCamillo's books' themes of hope and belief amid impossible circumstances and their messages of shared humanity and connectedness have resonated with readers of all ages around the world. In her instant #1 New York Times bestseller *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, a haughty china rabbit undergoes a profound transformation after finding himself face down on the ocean floor — lost and waiting to be found. *The Tale of Despereaux* — the Newbery Medal-winning novel that later inspired an animated adventure from Universal Pictures — stars a tiny mouse with exceptionally large ears who is driven by love to become an unlikely hero. *The Magician's Elephant*, an acclaimed and exquisitely paced fable, dares to ask the question *What if?* And Kate DiCamillo's second Newbery Medal winner, *Flora & Ulysses*, was released in 2013 to great acclaim, garnering five starred reviews and an instant spot on the New York Times bestseller list.

Born in Philadelphia but raised in the South, Kate DiCamillo now lives in Minneapolis, where she faithfully writes two pages a day, five days a week.

