

May 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The 2010-2011 school year is quickly coming to a close. Our students have worked diligently throughout the year, and they now look forward to summer vacation. **Research shows, however, that students lose one to three months of learning every summer.** This phenomenon is often referred to as “the summer slide.”

To prevent students’ skills from *sliding* in July and August, we strongly recommend that students read during the summer. Why? Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to stay connected to literature, to enhance literacy skills developed during the school year, and to gain knowledge. Plus, it’s fun! According to a variety of studies, students who read frequently not only improve comprehension and become better readers but also increase their vocabularies, enhance their critical thinking skills, and improve their memories.

The teachers in our High School English Department are avid, enthusiastic readers who understand the power of books to change lives. Thus, we have compiled a reading list of the most compelling and engaging stories for each grade level. Most of the titles in this list are mentioned in *500 Great Books for Teens*. The utmost care has been taken to prepare lists with a large variety of books appropriate for high school students, but parents are urged to review the titles with their children and to make choices as a family.

Students are asked to read a minimum of two books—selected from these grade level lists—over the summer vacation. All information about summer reading can also be found at the following locations:

- Islip website (www.islipufsd.org)
- High School main office
- Middle School main office (for 8th grade students entering 9th grade)
- Reference desk in the Islip Public Library
- Barnes & Noble in Bay Shore

AP Language and AP Literature students will receive separate reading lists and assignments from their AP teachers. (They will be posted on the school website.)

Enjoy your summer. See you in September!

Sincerely,

Barbara Wagner
English Department Chairperson

Student Name: _____ Current English Teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please return the bottom of this form to your child’s English teacher.