

THE LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB

Dear Parents,

I'd like to introduce you to the Lunch Bunch Book Club we are starting at Parkside School. Beginning in December, each month two books will be featured during lunchtime book discussions. The idea behind the Lunch Bunch Book Club is to read and discuss books in a casual environment so students who enjoy reading can come together, get to know each other a bit, and have a chance to read and discuss great books just for fun!

Here's how it works:

1. First, I will talk with each class about the upcoming books and will send home a flyer with more information about each of the two books.
2. Then interested students will visit the library to sign up for the Lunch Bunch meetings they want to attend that month. Students who sign up are expected to attend the Lunch Bunch, unless they talk to me first and have their name taken off the list. Once they sign up, they will be given the list of discussion questions to think about as they read the book. *These are not questions they have to write the answers to!* The questions are just guidelines for the students so they have an idea where the discussions might go, and so they can have some opinions already formed.
3. Once they've signed up and received the discussion questions, it's time to start reading! Each student is responsible for getting his/her own book, either from our library, from Porter or another public library, or by purchasing them. As they read, I encourage students to mark interesting passages or discussion points.
4. Finally, on Lunch Bunch meeting day (which are separate days for each book), everyone who has signed up brings their lunch to the library during lunch and recess for a great book discussion! Students who want to join us last minute need to check with me first so I can add them to the list.

We would like to keep this a group for students who are truly interested in reading independently because each child is expected to read the book entirely before coming to the book discussion. Therefore, *the students can choose to participate on a month-to-month basis*. They are free to select the books that sound appealing to them and join us for those discussions only. They may participate in the Lunch Bunch Book Club as much as they choose. I anticipate that some children will only join us for one discussion, and some will join us for all twelve, with most falling somewhere between those extremes.

Here are the books I'm planning on using this year. Please note, some of these titles are subject to change.

Week of December 7 th :	<i>Gregor the Overlander</i> by Suzanne Collins (meeting date 12/7) <i>When You Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead
Week of January 25 th :	<i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar <i>The Higher Power of Lucky</i> by Susan Patron
Week of February 22 nd :	<i>Hoot</i> by Carl Hiaasen <i>Chasing Vermeer</i> by Blue Balliet
Week of March 29 th :	<i>The Last Book in the Universe</i> by Rodman Philbrick <i>Life as We Knew It</i> by Susan Beth Pfeffer
Week of April 26 th :	<i>Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World</i> by Jane Yolen <i>We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball</i> by Kadir Nelson
Week of May 24 th :	<i>The Underneath</i> by Kathi Appelt <i>The Wednesday Wars</i> by Gary D. Schmidt

Students will be hearing about the Lunch Bunch Book Clubs over the next couple of weeks, and will have the opportunity to sign up for the December discussions. Please feel free to contact me at ext. 2200 or at gorek@wlake.org with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Becky Gorek
Librarian, Parkside Intermediate