



Saint Francis of Assisi School

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From the desk of Mrs. Walrath
Kindergarten Teacher

Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement

We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating St. Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

Dear Parents,

Reading is one of the most important skills your child learns. Children who read during the summer months perform better when school resumes in the fall. Encouragement at home plays a very important part in developing positive feelings about reading. Just a few minutes a day – sharing a story can increase a child's interest in reading. To promote the love of books and to encourage children to continue their reading progress and literacy skills I am introducing a required summer reading program.

Children are required to read TWO books during the summer. Attached you will find a list of book titles and authors. Included in the packet will be two sheets of paper for your child to draw a picture about the story that was read to them. On the first day of school, students must return the summer reading illustrations. Although only two books are required we encourage you and your child to **Read, Read, Read!**

Use the guide to select a variety of recommended books with your child. Many sources are available to you for these existing books. In addition to your home collections and bookstores, the Public Library is an excellent resource.

The Thayer Public Library in Braintree has a copy of the summer book lists, and the librarians will be happy to help you and your child to make good choices. The Thayer Library also sponsors summer reading programs for the children to enjoy, and I strongly encourage participation.

To encourage children to continue reading for enjoyment we need your support. Read all summer long. **Parents are the most important teachers of their children.** When parents are actively involved in learning at home, their children become more successful in and out of school. Read with your child and model reading by reading your favorite book. Reading opens doors to the world, improves vocabulary, comprehension, math and science.

In the fall, the children who complete the two illustrations will receive an award and we will have a special celebration. Let's work together to make this a fun and rewarding summer!

Kindergarten Summer Reading List

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Bill Martin, Eric Carle (illus.)

Eric Carle's double-page tissue collages and Bill Martin's friendly chant unite to create this vibrant introduction to colors. The first line of the book is the title, to which a big brown bear responds, "I see a redbird looking at me." The redbird responds with another animal and so on, until a mother (or a teacher, depending on the edition) asks a group of children what they see. A wonderful read-aloud for either a group or individuals, this book is a favorite of teachers.

Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys, and Their Monkey Business

by Esphyr Slobodkina

A cap peddler wakes from a nap to find all his caps are gone -- a bunch of naughty monkeys have taken them up a tree. Angrily shaking his finger at the monkeys, the peddler demands his caps back, but the monkeys only shake their fingers and say "Tsz, tsz, tsz." No matter what the peddler does, the monkeys only imitate him. Finally, the peddler is so enraged he throws his cap on the ground -- and all the monkeys follow suit!

Franklin Rides a Bike

by Paulette Bourgeois, Brenda Clark (illus.)

At the beginning of spring, Franklin and all his friends have training wheels on their bikes. But soon Franklin is the only one who can't ride without them. Every time he tries he falls down, and he's beginning to get discouraged. His mom finally convinces him to keep with it, and Franklin finally rides on his own.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

by Laura Joffe Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)

What happens if you give a mouse a cookie? Why, he'll need a glass of milk to go with it! He'll also need a straw, a napkin, a mirror -- each item prompts the need for another. When the mouse is hanging a picture from a refrigerator (how did he get there?), he's reminded that he's thirsty and needs a glass of milk (uh-oh). With this milk, it's absolutely necessary to have a cookie, of course! Bond's wonderful illustrations enliven this modern-day classic.

The Listening Walk

by Paul Showers

We're going on a Listening Walk. Shhhhh. Do not talk. Do not hurry. Get ready to fill your ears with a world of wonderful, surprising sounds. In this colorfully illustrated book a little girl and her father take a quiet walk and identify the sounds around them. This beautiful lesson in appreciating the extraordinary qualities found in the rhythm of everyday life entices readers to pay more attention to the world surrounding them.

The Little Engine That Could

by Watty Piper, George Hauman (illus.), Doris Hauman (illus.)

When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain. This classic never loses its appeal or fails to teach its lesson.

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey

This Caldecott Award-winning classic about Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their brood of ducklings has been a favorite since 1941. When Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings are stuck at a busy street

in downtown Boston, their policeman friend Michael rushes in to stop traffic and make way for them. McCloskey's sepia illustrations are priceless, and a statue of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings can be found in the Boston Common today.

Quick as a Cricket

by Audrey Wood, Don Wood (illus.)

A joyful celebration of a child's growing self-awareness. This classic children's book is a teacher's favorite, with outstanding illustrations by Don Wood.

Ten Apples Up on Top!

by Theodore LeSieg (Dr. Seuss), Roy McKie (illus.)

A lion, a dog, and a tiger are having a contest -- can they get ten apples piled up on top of their heads? You better believe it! This first counting book works as a teaching tool as well as a funny story.

There's an Alligator Under My Bed

by Mercer Mayer

This sequel to *There's a Nightmare in My Closet* brings back that story's imaginative young hero for an even funnier nighttime adventure. All kids will identify with the realistic alligator who just happens to live you know where.

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (illus.)

In this highly acclaimed version, Alexander T. Wolf tells his never-before-heard version of the story. Is he the bad guy history has portrayed him as, or was the big, bad wolf framed? This outrageously funny version of a familiar nursery tale will leave readers grinning all the way to their chinny chin chin.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

by Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz (illus.)

From the moment Alexander wakes up and finds gum in his hair, everything goes wrong! His brothers both get prizes in their cereal boxes, his best friend demotes him to third-best friend, there are lima beans for dinner, and there is kissing on TV. All kids experience this kind of day and will be glad to find they are not alone!

The Bears' Picnic

by Stan Berenstain, Jan Berenstain

The Berenstain Bears endure countless trials before finding a suitable picnic spot.

Bedtime for Frances

by Russell Hoban, Garth Williams (illus.)

It may be bedtime for Frances, but that doesn't mean Frances is ready to go to bed -- not by a long shot. First she must have a glass of milk and make certain Mother and Father have each kissed her good night (twice). Then she is ready to imagine there is a tiger in her room, and a giant, and ... each time Frances thinks up something new, off she goes to tell her ever-patient, if increasingly weary, parents. The familiar delaying tactics of Frances the song-singing badger have delighted fans young and old for more than three decades. Combining sympathetic understanding with gentle humor, Russell Hoban created in Frances a character at once immediately recognizable and eminently likable. In this new edition, the warmth of full color enriches Garth Williams's original artwork, bringing a fresh look to an enduring favorite.

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Kindergarten Supply List for 2010-2011 School Year

*Please bring all school supplies to the Kindergarten Open House in September 2010

1. (2) No. # 2 pencils.
2. (2) Crayola Crayons – 8 pack, basic colors only
3. (1) pack of washable markers – basic colors only
4. (1) Basic water coloring paint set with paintbrush
5. (1) Folder with pockets (no trapper keepers, or binders) to bring papers home from school
6. (6) glue sticks
7. (1) fiscars children's scissors
8. (1) marble notebook
9. (2) boxes of tissues
10. (1) hand sanitizer
11. (2) boxes of baby wipes
12. (2) rolls of paper towels
13. (1) Ziploc sandwich bags or gallon bags