

ST. CROIX COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING – 2008

Dear Parents,

Summer reading has become a tradition at Country Day School. There is something wonderful about curling up with a good book and losing all sense of time and place! This year's fifth-graders (sixth-graders next September) will be asked to read two books of five offered for their grade level this summer.

For your convenience, we will take orders for those who would like to purchase their summer reading books in advance. You may, of course, choose to purchase the books on your own. ***The deadline for payment and order is Tuesday, April 28th.*** Order blanks and payment are to be turned in to your child's homeroom teacher.

You will receive a copy of your order blank, initialed, as a receipt. Books will be handed out during the last week of school for reading during the summer. Students will also receive a general study guide to use as they read. During the first week of school, students will be expected to write about their reading.

We hope this procedure works well and that all students read not only the required summer books, but many others as well. You will find many suggestions at the American Library Association's web site:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/literaryrelated.htm> Enjoy!

The Sixth Grade Teachers

ORDER FORM
SIXTH GRADE READING LIST

_____ The Lightning Thief, Riordan \$8.50

_____ The Penderwicks, Birdsall \$7.00

_____ The Ballad of Lucy Whipple, Cushman \$6.50

_____ The River, Paulsen \$6.00

_____ Total Number of Books Total amount enclosed _____

Student Name

Parent Signature

SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy, Jeanne Birdsall

This enjoyable tale of four sisters, a new friend, and his snooty mother is rollicking fun. The girls' father is a gentle, widowed botany professor who gives his daughters free reign but is always there to support or comfort them. Rosalind, 12, has become the mother figure. Skye, 11, is fierce and hot-tempered. Jane, 10, is a budding writer of mysteries who has the disconcerting habit of narrating aloud whatever is occurring around her. Batty, four, is an endearingly shy, loving child who always wears butterfly wings. The family dog, Hound, is her protector. The tale begins as the Penderwicks embark on a summer holiday in the Berkshire Mountains, at a cottage on the grounds of a posh mansion owned by the terribly snobbish Mrs. Tifton. Her son, Jeffrey, is a brilliant pianist, but her heart is set on him attending a military academy like her beloved father. Problems are solved and lessons learned in this wonderful, humorous book that features characters whom readers will immediately love, as well as a superb writing style.

The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan

An adventure-quest with a hip edge. At first glance, Perseus Jackson seems like a loser (readers meet him at a boarding school for troubled youth), but he's really the son of Poseidon and a mortal woman. As he discovers his heritage, he also loses that mother and falls into mortal danger. The gods (still very active in the 21st-century world) are about to go to war over a lost thunderbolt, so Percy and sidekicks Grover (a young satyr) and Annabeth (daughter of Athena) set out to retrieve it. Many close calls and monster-attacks later, they enter Hades's realm (via L.A.). A virtuoso description of the Underworld is matched by a later account of Olympus (hovering 600 floors above Manhattan). There's lots of zippy review of Greek myth and legend, and characters like Medusa, Procrustes, Charon, and the Eumenides get updates. Some of the Labors of Heracles or Odysseus's adventures are recycled, but nothing seems stale, and the breakneck pace keeps the action from being too predictable. Percy is an ADHD, wise-cracking, first-person narrator. Naturally, his real quest is for his own identity. Along the way, such topics as family, trust, war, the environment, dreams, and perceptions are raised.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules, Jeff Kinney

When California Morning Whipple's widowed mother uproots her family from their comfortable Massachusetts environs and moves them to a rough mining camp called Lucky Diggins in the Sierras, California Morning resents the upheaval. Desperately wanting to control something in her own life, she decides to be called Lucy, and as Lucy she grows and changes in her strange and challenging new environment. Here Karen Cushman helps the American Gold Rush spring to colorful life, just as she did for medieval England in her previous two books, *Catherine Called Birdy* and *The Midwife's Apprentice*, which won Newbery Honor status and a [Newbery Medal](#) respectively. – Amazon.com

The River, Gary Paulsen

A sequel to the most popular of Paulsen's three Newbery Honor books (*Hatchet*, 1987), based on an unlikely premise-- government researchers want Brian to reenact his northwoods survival so that his strategies can be observed and taught to others. Derek, a young psychologist, and Brian are dropped off at another Canadian lake, near the first one, equipped only with knives and a radio that Derek has promised not to use except in a dire emergency. Everything goes all too smoothly until their camp is struck by lightning, zapping the radio and leaving Derek in a coma. Brian manages to float Derek 100 miles down a river to a trading post, thus saving his life. – Kirkus Review