



Ogden Elementary School

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Dear Families of “Soon-to-Be” Fourth Graders,

We are all aware of the importance of shared-reading experiences. This summer we would like to provide your child the opportunity to share his or her growing competence with reading. We will be posting a suggested list of summer reading titles to our Ogden Website, including lists of leveled books in different genres as well as magazines and websites to promote independent reading. In addition, we will be sending home the book, *Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli with your child to share with you. Please join us by making this the “Summer of Reading as a Family.”

The book is about how a young boy deals with making difficult decisions, and is able to find the courage and determination to overcome obstacles. We selected it because it has a special message that will evoke strong emotions and hopefully, thoughtful dialogue at home. We believe that when children read and discuss books that speak to important issues, they have a better understanding of their role in the school community.

Please make the reading of this wonderful book a family affair. It is a gift from our Ogden family to yours, but the true gift will be the time you spend together with your “soon-to-be” fourth grader. We hope these sharing times are full of warmth and good feelings and I encourage you to become a partner with us as you read and discuss this very relevant story.

Your child’s book will be sent home in a plastic baggie. This is to help protect and store the book. It will also serve as a reminder to return both the book and the baggie to Ogden on your first day of school. Please use the attached pages, “Let’s Discuss” to guide you as you discuss the books major themes: peer pressure, courage, and determination. In September, you will be invited to join your child at a special breakfast where we will share our thoughts and understandings of the book. The meaningful conversations that come about will launch us into an exciting year of reading and writing. I wish you a wonderful summer filled with good weather, happy memories and enjoyable reading. See you in September!

Sincerely,

Dina M. Anzalone

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