



Dear Parents,

We had a great day last Thursday when our students assembled in the gym before lunch and we celebrated “World Read A Loud “ Day. We heard from several upper grade students and a few shy but brave 4th and 5th graders. Then at the Valentine dinner the crème de la crème. A kindergartener, young master Samuel, read his story on Whales to everyone at the event. Our day had a cherry on top. As we enter our third month of 2017 we also get closer to our new signature fundraising event. We roll out our Read A Thon this spring. Each student will be urged to read as much as possible from March 17 to April 20. All the funds will go to placing large 4K high definition TVs in each room. Our cost will be about \$800.00 per room so we will need each student to average about \$90.00 of donations. SVAS is so fortunate to have Mrs. Yin, a new family member, come to my rescue as she is willing to head this new exciting program. Please stand ready to support this singular spring feature. Not only will this raise money for a highly needed project, (The TV’s will fit seamlessly back into our reimaged rooms once they are renovated) but this type of fundraiser will also encourage all of our students to increase their reading dimension. We all know the importance of reading but I am glad to say that SVAS is going out of its way to create a real desire to read.

While your child is reading for their donations let me make a not so subtle suggestion, read with them. No, not the same books, park yourself down next to your child and when they are reading their Llama Llama book you show them that reading is a life long pleasure and treasure by pulling out something to enrich your life. Have the entire family set aside at least 30 min each night to read. Imagine the conversations you will have at the dinner table once you finish a book. Reading unlocks the door to every thought. If I may, I would like to make a few suggestions. You will find several on page two. IF you have a great book for me to read, pass it on!

Last point, we are making our security and emergency plans more secure here at school. Why not use the time at home to make sure you also have all your emergency plans in store. Being ready is always in style.

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Stokes'.

Stephen Stokes  
Principal



Suggestions for our Parents

[\*Crossing the Waters: Following Jesus through the Storms, the Fish, the Doubt, and the Seas\*](#)

**Leslie Leyland Fields** (NavPress)

“Drawing from a trip to Israel and from her family’s lives as salmon fishermen on a remote island in Alaska, Fields shows what it means to be a child of God in the world today. We get a clear picture of what Jesus was doing with his disciples, his followers, his critics, and his family in and around the Sea of Galilee. Fields helpfully intersperses her own family’s stories of adventure, risk, calm, and loss. Her command of language, allegory, and Scripture is impressive.” —*Lore Ferguson Wilbert, blogger at Sayable.net*

[\*75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know: The Fascinating Stories behind Great Works of Art, Literature, Music, and Film\*](#)

**Terry Glaspey** (Baker)

“The prevailing assumption is that evangelicals and art don’t really get along. Glaspey deftly undermines this idea by making the case for integrating a range of masterpieces into Christian tradition. He does this in the best way possible, not by offering conceptual reasons why Christians should care about art, but by getting down to business and revealing the work itself, piece by piece. Any book that attempts a survey of sorts, especially one covering hundreds of years and multiple genres, runs the risk of superficiality. Glaspey manages to avoid this with his concise, illuminating essays that accompany each piece.” —*S. D. Kelly, essayist*

[\*The Confessions of X\*](#)

Suzanne M. Wolfe (Thomas Nelson)

“In this gripping, beautifully written historical novel, Wolfe brings the ancient city of Carthage to life, immersing readers in the experiences that shaped the theology of Augustine of Hippo. In her deftly told and well-researched story, the unnamed woman whom Augustine loved and lived with for 13 years rises from the footnotes of history to become a dynamic, fully-fleshed character. Their relationship shows us an achingly real love, heartrending self-sacrifice, and the way that beliefs are shaped by experiences in the beautiful and terrible world.” —*Amy Peterson, writer and assistant director of honors programming, Taylor University*  
Award of Merit

[\*The Promise of Jesse Woods\*](#)

Chris Fabry (Tyndale)

“This is a well-crafted novel with sympathetic characters, gently woven themes, and evocative descriptions. As a reader I became thoroughly immersed in the world of Dogwood and the lives of Matt and his friends. Fabry is skilled at portraying the real-life faith struggles of real people, and he manages to avoid the gravitational pull toward a clichéd ending.” —*Sharon Garlough Brown, author of the Sensible Shoes series*

[\*Kierkegaard: A Single Life\*](#)

Stephen Backhouse (Zondervan)

“Kierkegaard offers an unflinching look at the general despair and anxiety that mark the human condition, and forces his readers to confront the many ultimately vacuous and unsatisfying strategies we erect to dull the pain or suppress the realities of our fate. While quality scholarship on his life and thought is plentiful, Backhouse’s book seems to stand in a class by itself. He has done what many believed impossible: taking the complex ideas and contributions of the great Danish philosopher and making them accessible to contemporary, non-academic audiences. He has also managed to demonstrate in clear and lucid prose how Kierkegaard’s otherwise shadowy life circumstances shaped his views and led him to write the major works associated with his name.” —*Jay Green, professor of history, Covenant College*

**Classics to Own, Read and Re-read**

[\*Mere Christianity\*](#) by C. S. Lewis (Anything really)

[\*The Ragamuffin Gospel\*](#) by Brennan Manning

[\*The Cost of Discipleship\*](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

[\*No Wonder They Call Him the Savior\*](#), or

[\*In the Grip of Grace\*](#), or

[\*Traveling Light\*](#) all by Max Lucado (So many more)

[\*Desire of Ages\*](#) or

[\*Steps to Christ\*](#) by Ellen G White

[\*My Utmost for His Highest\*](#) by Oswald Chambers

[\*The Art of Forgiving\*](#) by Lewis Smedes

[\*Your God is too Small\*](#) by J B Phillips

“Stephen, just read one book.. You wont stop with one...”

*My Dad*