

Welcome incoming fourth grade students! This year you will be reading over the summer to help prepare you for the upcoming school year!

Every incoming fourth grade student is **required** to read the following two books:

**\*\*Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?** by Margaret Frith-This book overviews the life of one of the most famous "New Jerseyans", Thomas Edison. The electric light bulb was only one of thousands of Edison's inventions, which include the phonograph and the kinoscope. As a boy, observing a robin catch a worm and then take flight, he fed a playmate a mixture of worms and water to see if she could fly! After reading, you can visit his laboratory and home in nearby West Orange, NJ! (Biography)

(Museum website: <http://www.nps.gov/edis/index.htm> )

**The Lemonade War**-Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand! (Realistic Fiction, **Student Favorite!**)

In addition, we recommend the following books if you would like to read more!:

**The Cricket in Times Square**- by George Selden-The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat. (Fantasy)

**\*Through My Eyes** by Ruby Bridges- In November 1960, all of America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal Marshall's, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement, Ruby Bridges chronicles each dramatic step of this pivotal event in history. Filled with historic photographs. (Historical Non-Fiction)

**The Boy Who Saved Baseball** by John H. Ritter- The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player Dante Del Gato. (Sports Fiction)

***The Chocolate Touch*** by Patrick Skene-John Midas loves chocolate more than anything; he wishes he could eat it morning, noon, and night. But his appetite for sweets lands him in trouble when he eats a mysterious candy and gets much more than he bargained for. Suddenly, everything his lips touch turns to chocolate! Life is delicious for a while, but it gets complicated when he can't play the trumpet or bob for apples. Worst of all, he forgets and kisses his mother! This classic be-careful-what-you-wish-for story is easy to read. (Humorous/Fantasy Fiction)

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane-*** by Kate Di Camillo- (Fantasy) Edward Tulane was a china rabbit owned by a girl named Abilene, who loved him. One day, he was lost. The book takes us on an extraordinary journey and along the way, we learn that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

***Everest*** by Gordon Korman-Four kids. One mountain. They come from all across America to be the youngest kid ever to climb Everest. But only one will reach the top first. The competition is fierce. The preparation is intense. The challenge is breathtaking. When the final four reach the higher peaks, disaster strikes — and all that separates the living from the dead is chance, bravery, and action (Adventure)

***Hoboken Chicken Emergency*** by Daniel M. Pinkwater- Arthur goes to pick up the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner but comes back with a 260-pound chicken. Takes place in Hoboken, **New Jersey!** (Fiction)(**A favorite of Mr. Ortiz!**)

***Frindle*** by Andrew Clements-When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control. (Realistic Fiction) (**Or read any Andrew Clements book**)

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*** by Judy Blume-Fourth-grader Peter Hatcher finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem. (Realistic Fiction)

***Out of My Mind*** by Sharon M. Draper-Considered by many to be mentally challenged, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time. (Realistic Fiction)

Thank you!

Mrs. Kappock, Fourth Grade Reading

Mrs. Rego, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Mrs. Gareffa, Gould Library

**\*\*Required book**

**\* Non-fiction**

**Books are available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and local libraries**