

End-of-Year

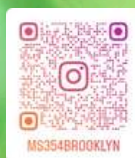
May-June 2025

May these months bring closer connections and fill lives with peace and happiness.

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FEATURE STORIES
SEL CORNER
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PARENT CORNER

DR MONIQUE CAMPBELL, Principal
KIMANI SMITH, Assistant Principal
CYLANN PHILLIPS, Assistant Principal
MAXINE GRIFFITH, School Counselor
ELROY CORMACK, Parent Coordinator
Amanda Bernadine, Counseling In Schools
Handel Barclay, New York Edge

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE OR CALL US
MS354.COM, 718-774-
0362



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Principal's Message

As the school year comes to a close, I encourage you to take some time to reflect on your experiences. Consider what you've learned this year, the friendships you've made, and the challenges you've overcome. Reflection is a valuable tool that can help you appreciate how far you've come and prepare for the next steps in your educational journey.

May also brings certain transitions as we prepare for the upcoming school year. For our graduating eighth graders, you are on the brink of a new adventure as you transition to high school. This is an exciting time filled with new possibilities and experiences. Embrace the change, and remember that each challenge you face will only contribute to your growth.

For our students who will be returning next year, think about what you want to achieve in the upcoming school year. Set goals for yourself- academically, socially, or personally. Goal-setting can provide direction and motivation for the upcoming months.

In May and June, we will have several events to round out the year. I encourage you all to participate! Join in on school spirit days, talent shows, sports events, and end-of-year celebrations. These activities are not just about fun, but also about building community and creating lasting memories. Engage with your peers, support one another, and let's make these last weeks together count.

As we transition through these busy final two months, please remember to take care of yourselves. The end of the school year can bring a whirlwind of activities. Make sure to balance your time wisely. Take breaks when needed, get enough rest, and don't hesitate to reach out if you're feeling overwhelmed. Your mental and emotional well-being is just as important as your academic performance.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to each of you. Your energy, creativity, and enthusiasm make our school a vibrant place to learn and grow. I am incredibly proud of you and the community we have built together. Let's finish the school year strong! Keep up the great work, support one another, and remember that we are all here to help each other succeed.

Warm regards,

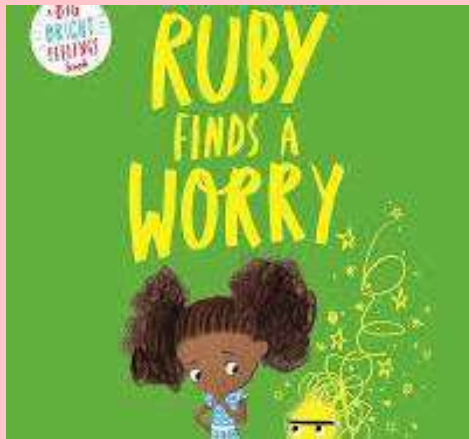
Dr. Monique Campbell





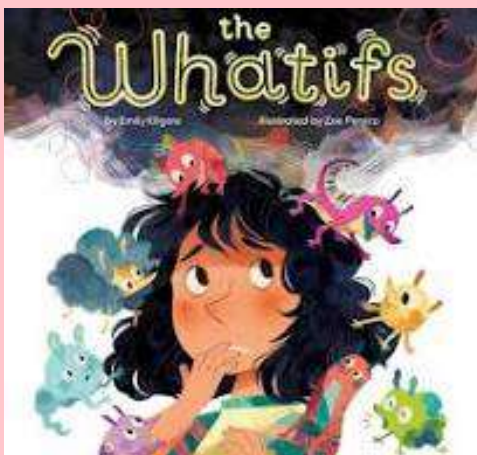
MAY SEL MONTHLY THEMES

BOOK OF THE MONTH



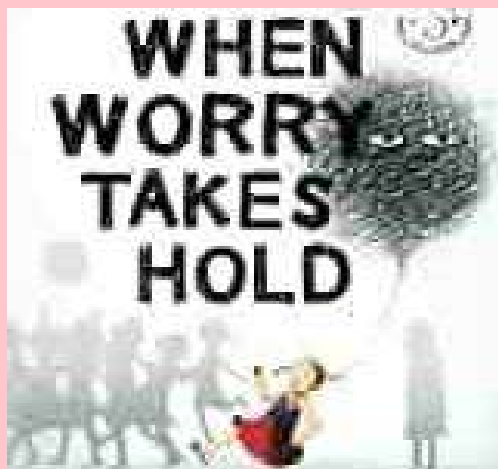
GRADE 6

"Ruby Finds a Worry" tells the story of Ruby, a carefree girl who discovers a small worry that gradually grows larger and larger, consuming her energy and joy. The worry is visually represented as a blob, initially small, but becoming a large, looming presence as Ruby focuses on it. Through befriending a sad boy who also has a worry, Ruby learns that sharing her worries with others can help them shrink and even disappear, ultimately allowing her to rediscover her joy and sense of adventure.



GRADE 7

"The Whatifs" by Emily Kilgore is a picture book about a girl named Cora who struggles with anxiety before a big piano recital. The book uses the metaphor of "Whatifs" - embodied as anxious little creatures - to represent Cora's worries and fears. With the help of a new friend, Cora learns to replace negative "Whatifs" with positive ones, ultimately finding confidence and overcoming her anxiety.



GRADE 8

"When Worry Takes Hold" is a children's book about Maya, a girl whose worries and fears take over her life, causing darkness and fear to consume her. The story follows Maya as she learns to overcome her worry by finding courage through a simple breathing technique. The book emphasizes that even though worry may linger, Maya can learn to manage it and find confidence by acknowledging it and choosing to be brave.

Staff

SPOTLIGHT



Sherrie Williams

Ms. Williams is one of the school aides at MS 354. She is a dedicated professional who is passionate about supporting students' academic and personal growth, and works collaboratively with teachers, to help to create a positive and inclusive learning environment. Ms. Williams demonstrates exceptional care for student welfare by escorting students to the nurse and hospital when needed, providing comfort and reassurance during medical situations. Her diligent monitoring of hallways and bathrooms ensures our common areas remain safe and secure throughout the school day.

She plays a crucial role in our environmental sustainability initiatives, ensuring students comply with proper trash disposal and composting procedures in the lunchroom.

Ms. Williams assists with maintaining student records, efficiently collects lunch forms and surveys, and provides support during registration periods. She also provides reliable copying and document preparation services.

She goes above and beyond to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Grade 6

ZARAH RUPERT

Interests: I like drawing and reading fantasy because it is a great escape from doing school work.

Favorite Subject: I like Social Studies because I can learn about the past and how we got here in the future.

Future Career: I would like to be an author because I like reading and I'd like people to read what I write.



Grade 7

MARQUISE DARIUS

Interests: I like playing video games, playing steel pan and travelling.

Favorite Subject: My favorite subject is math because I like solving problems, and my teacher Mr. Maitre make learning math interesting and fun.

Future Career: At the moment I am unsure - but I am interested in engineering (there are many interesting areas of study in that field).



LAWTON HENRY

Grade 8

Interests: I really love basketball - I've been playing since I was 3 years old.

Favorite Subject: I love math and Social Studies. They are both easy to learn and I have great teachers.

Future Career: I would like to be a rapper because I know I have talent. Also, I have family members who are in the industry who inspire and encourage me to pursue this dream.





CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2025

As you embark on this new chapter, may your future
be filled with success and happiness.



Feature Story



Family Life Theatre Team

The interactive theatre classroom presentation

The Family life Theatre Team is a program that uses interactive theatre to address social-emotional learning and engage students and families.

The three teaching artistes masterfully brought real-life situations to life, challenging and engaging students with meaningful issues including adoption, depression, peer interactions, empathy, revenge and conflict resolution.

The program perfectly complements our City's new instructional focus on "storytelling" as an educational foundation, which was recently launched by the deputy Chancellor. This residency demonstrates how arts education can powerfully support academic and social-emotional learning objectives.

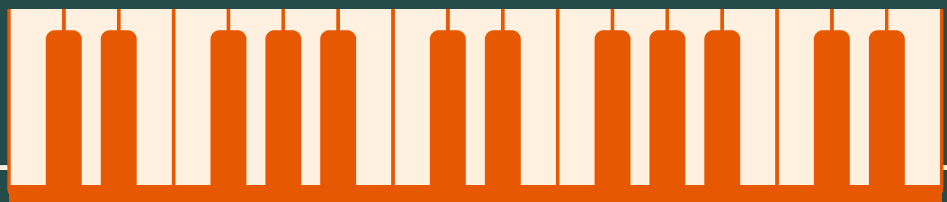
Thank you AXEL REYES and your team for using the platform of interactive theatre to help our students develop social-emotional skills.

STEEL PAN



BROOKLYN QUEENS STEEL PAN FESTIVAL

SOME OF OUR VERY TALENTED MUSICIANS PARTICIPATED IN THE BROOKLYN QUEENS STEEL PAN FESTIVAL WHICH FOCUSES ON CELEBRATING STEELPAN MUSIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

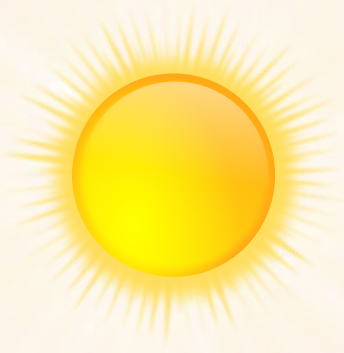


Cancellor's Town Hall & D17

Superintendent Shenean Lindsay, CEC 17 and NYCPS Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos met with families in-person on June 9, 2025 to discuss issues and concerns. MS 354 Steel Pan Orchestra was proud to be a part of this event.



Parent Corner



ONE DAY, THEY'LL FACE
SOMETHING BIGGER
THAN THEY CAN HANDLE
ALONE.
MAKE SURE THEY KNOW
EXACTLY WHERE TO
TURN.

A CHILD'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THEIR PARENT IS THE
BIGGEST PREDICTOR
OF THEIR FUTURE
MENTAL HEALTH.

A WEAK PARENT-CHILD
BOND INCREASES THE
RISK OF DEPRESSION,
ANXIETY, AND
EMOTIONAL STRUGGLES
LATER IN LIFE.
(HARVARD)

A CHILD WHO FEELS
CRITICIZED LEARNS TO
BE HARD ON
THEMSELVES.

A CHILD WHO FEELS
UNHEARD LEARNS
TO SUFFER IN
SILENCE.

A CHILD WHO
FEELS DISMISSED
LEARNS TO STAY
SILENT.



YOUR CHILD WON'T REMEMBER HOW PERFECT YOU WERE.



THEY'LL REMEMBER WHETHER THEY FELT SAFE BRINGING THEIR STRUGGLES TO YOU.

Disconnection doesn't happen all at once.

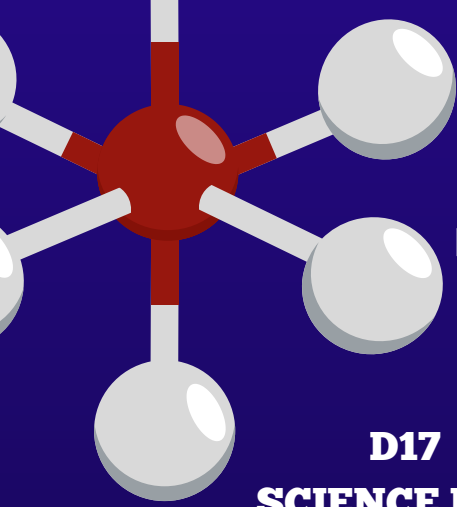
It happens in the small, everyday moments when a child feels unheard, dismissed, or judged.

But connection doesn't have to be complicated. It starts with:

- *Listening instead of lecturing.*
- *Validating instead of minimizing.*
- *Being their safe place - not their source of fear.*

One day, your child will face something bigger than they can handle alone.
Make sure they know exactly where to turn.





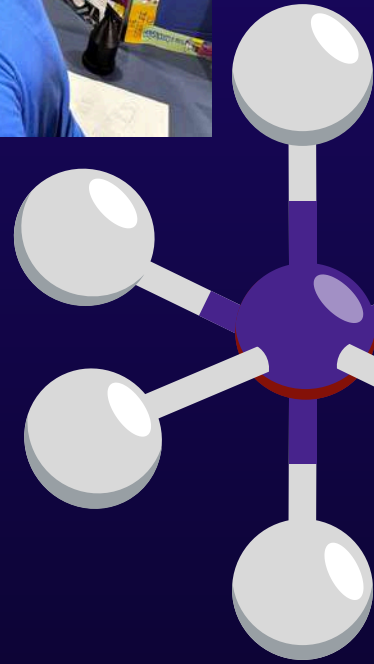
STEM AT MS 354



D17 SCIENCE EXPO



URBAN ADVANTAGE STEM EXPO





WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

MAY 28, 2025

Some of our students at MS 354 were pleased to participate in an initiative to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene that was sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated ® The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Delta Rho Omega Chapter in Brooklyn and District 17 on May 28, 2025.





Fun Times at MS 354

American Dream Mall





AREA 53



COMMUNITY DAY

14 MAY, 2025



COMMUNITY DAY

14 MAY, 2025



May Birthdays

Prince M 5/1

Janiya F 5/3

Trevon F 5/9

Josiah H 5/11

Gloriana T 5/11

Giselle B 5/13

Kayla T 5/16

Annabella G 5/14

Olivia M 5/20

Kareemah P 5/22

Amarii m 5/24

Kezarni F 5/26

Marquise D 5/28

Anabelle S 5/31



June Birthdays

Carmen H 6/3
Imani H 6/5
Lazeirah M 6/5
Ferline T 6/5
Calvin S 6/8
Zephaniah W 6/8
Reon S 6/8
Josiah T 6/10
Edison G 6/11
Eliana T 6/11
Alicia A 6/14

Fawzeeya A 6/18
Kylie A 6/19
Riyleem L 6/23
Leilani a 6/23
Brandy J 6/24
Gisselle P 6/27
Denique K 6/27
Elijah C 6/28
Nathaniel G 6/28



August Birthdays

Marley J 8/2

Jayla R 8/3

Anissa Peters 8/6

Joshua A 8/7

Zoe G 8/8

Jude C 8/8

Tristan C 8/8

Angel R 8/12

Timothy R 8/13

Zarina R 8/17

Razack A 8/20

Madison F 8/21

Ian G 8/21

Jah Keem W 8/21

Solange U 8/22

Danyella M 8/23

Anthony R 8/23

Emily C 8/28

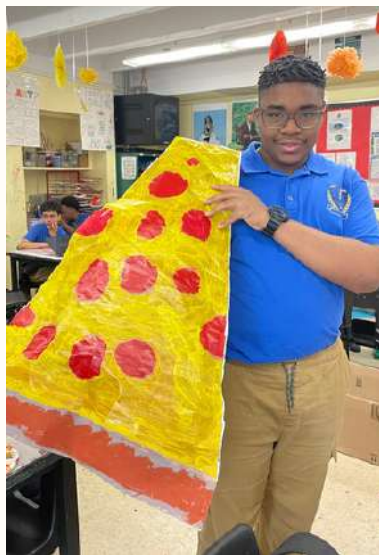
Drilauni T 8/29

Valentine M 8/29

Jerome W 8/30

Kelwin S 8/30





M.S. 354 CORNER STORE

During May and June, students in art have been creating giant food sculptures inspired by the work of artist Claes Oldenburg. Students drew and painted realistic snacks on a large scale, keeping proportions, details, and colors true to their snack food of choice.



JUNE IS *Caribbean Heritage Month*



In art, students created flags of countries all around the world to represent their heritage. Students used rulers, paint, colored pencil, and oil pastels to create their flags.



M.S. 354 Artists



David Curtis
Class 604

Favorite Art Project: Alebrije Sculpture and Food sculpture
Why I like making art: "I like that you can express yourself and you can make stuff in your mind come to life"



Cristal Mable
Class 710

Favorite Art Project: Giant Food Sculptures
Why I like making art: "It's fun and creative and you can paint anything."



Yehou-Nic Isemar &
Jediah Charles
Class 702

Yehou-Nic
Favorite Art Project: Alebrije Sculptures
Why I like making art: "It's fun and relaxing."

Jediah
Favorite Art Project: Giant Food Sculptures
Why I like making art: "I like the after. I like seeing the finished product. I like how I made it and it makes me feel good."



M.S. 354 Artists



Anissa Peters
Class 703

Favorite Art Project: Alebrije
Sculptures

Why I like making art: "Art is
fun"



Zarina Riles
Class 704

Favorite Art Project: "I liked making
the food sculpture because I got to
show my favorite food and work
with my best friend."

Why I like making art: "It helps
relieve stress."



Sarai Gil Lopez
Class 711

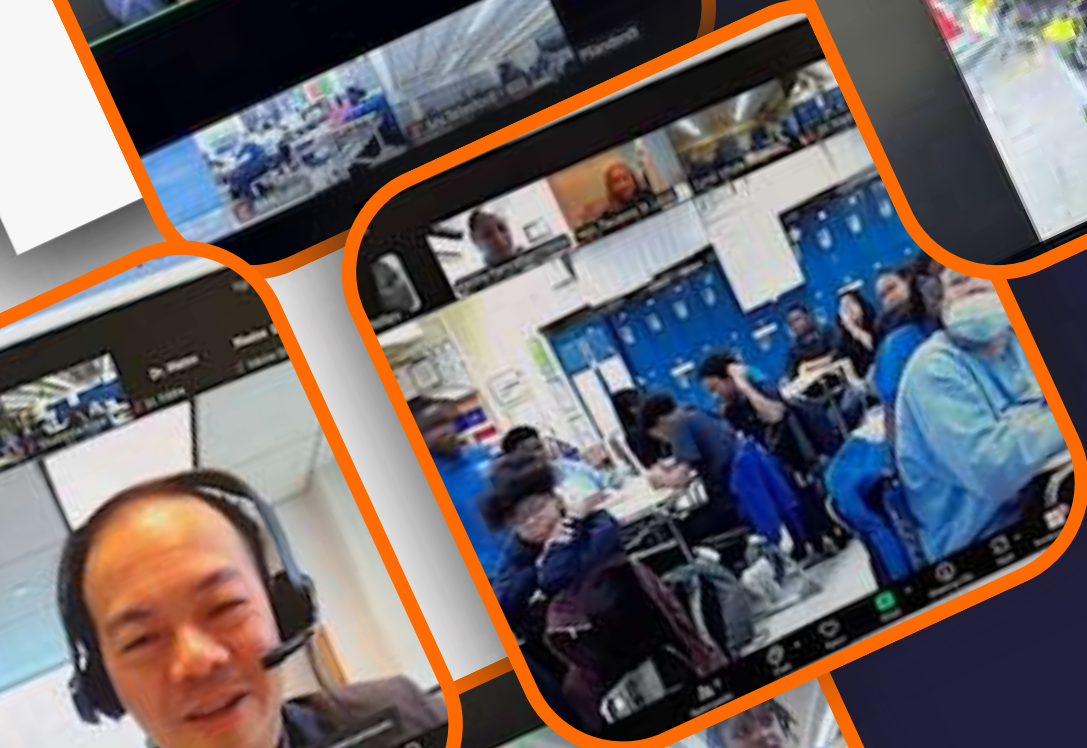
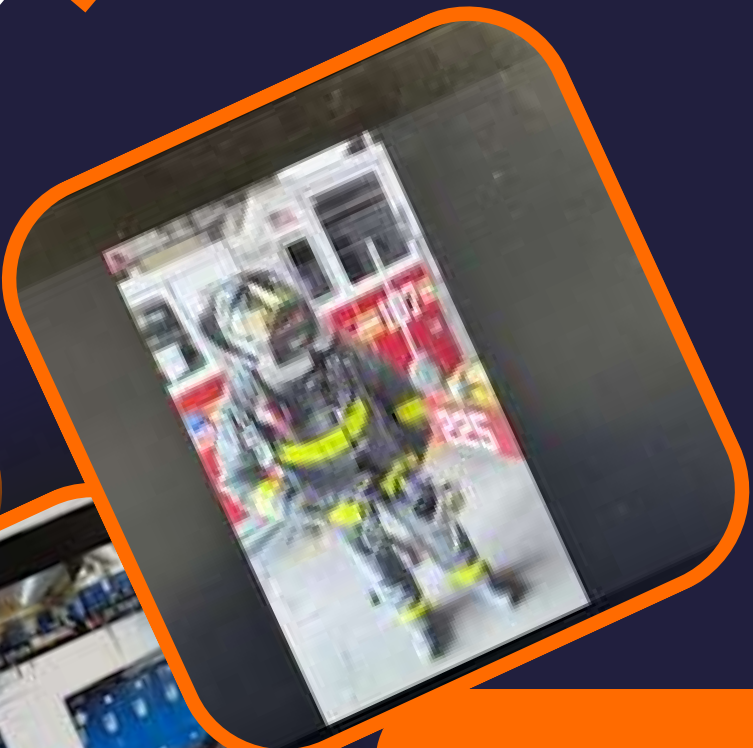
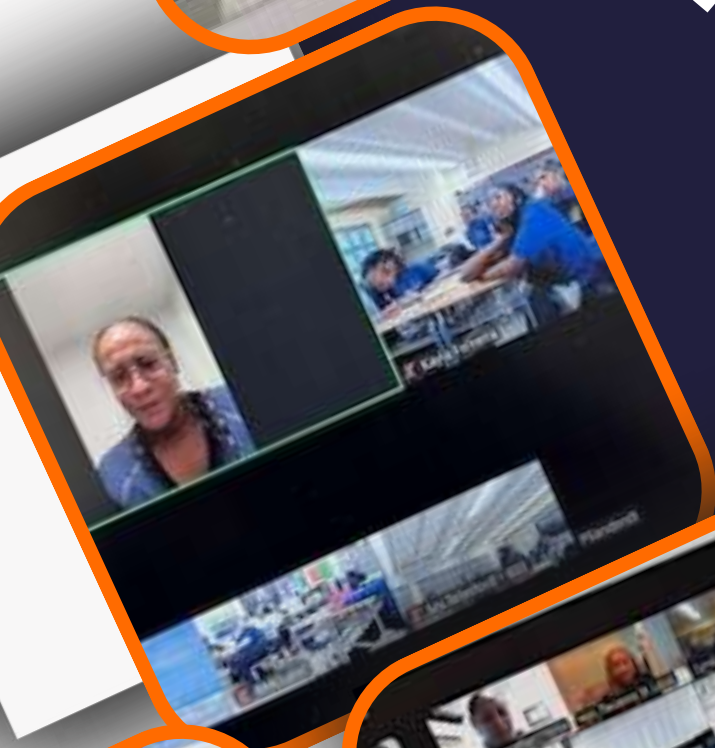
Favorite Art Project: Giant Food
Sculpture

Why I like making art: "Art is a
fun activity I like doing to
distract myself and entertain
myself."





CAREER DAY



Our career day was geared towards broadening our students' understanding of the diverse career landscapes and help them connect their education to future possibilities.

Incoming 6th Graders

WHAT TO READ

6th grade is a great time to help your child explore themselves by reading about the experiences of others.

Here are a few books that your child will be reading in the 7th grade. Get a head start and start reading in the summer.

- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
- The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
- I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai
- The Miracle Worker by William Gibson



Rising 7th Graders

WHAT TO READ

7th grade is a great time to help your child explore themselves by reading about the experiences of others.

Here are a few books that your child will be reading in the 7th grade. Get a head start and start reading in the summer.

- The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
- Tangerine by Edward Bloor
- We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success by Dr. George Jenkins
- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba
- The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir by William Kamkwamba

Rising 8th Graders

WHAT TO READ

8th grade is a great time to help your child explore themselves by reading about the experiences of others.

Here are a few books that your child will be reading in the 8th grade. Get a head start and start reading in the summer.

- Monster by Walter Dean Myers
- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- The Call of the Wild by Jack London
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
- Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank