

June 6, 2017

Dear Parents,
It's up! It's up! It's here, it's here!

The release of Chapin's summer reading list has historically marked the beginning of new summer adventures on an intellectual level, as well as the re-discovery of fabulous public libraries and booksellers.

As I like to remind my students, I met two of my best friends in my hometown's public library one August, when the three of us all ran out of stuff to read over our summer vacation. 25 years later, we still smile about how books brought us together.

This year, books will (hopefully!) bring Chapin's community together in new ways, too. Students in rising grades 4-7 will choose at least one of their three summer reading books from the *Choose Kind* reading suggestions provided by their librarians.

Students in rising grades 5-7 will additionally be asked to gather one quotation from this book that demonstrates the theme of "Choose Kind." (An informal citation, containing the book's title and page #, is requested alongside the quote.) Due date: Thursday, September 7, 2017.

Beginning on September 7th, pairs of Class 7 girls will lead activities and discussions around the *Choose Kind* theme, and help their peers in Classes 4-6 connect it to their Chapin lives. For an even deeper experience, we also recommend that parents (and interested siblings) read the *Choose Kind* book their middle schooler has chosen. It is our not-so-secret hope that by broadening the horizons of our program, we also expand the reach of kindness within and beyond our community.

May the books on the attached list connect us in unexpected ways. As in previous years, I have taken a "something for everyone" approach – from fantasy fiction to biographies of Elon Musk and Misty Copeland. I've also added *Kirkus Reviews'* suggested age ranges (8-12 for ages 8-12, for instance), to help guide our readers' choices.

Be it a book or person, may you meet a future best friend at the library this summer!

Natasha Goldberg, Middle School Librarian