

5/15/08

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that summer is just a week away. Before the break begins, we wanted to remind you about the Middle School summer reading program. As in previous years, students are required to read one book prior to the start of the school year. The seventh grade team will begin the year exploring our own backyard—the Southwest. *Serafina's Stories* by Rudolfo Anaya is a perfect place to begin. As historic fiction, it addresses the theme of the fission and fusion of cultures in the Southwest. Activities exploring this theme are planned for each class.

We encourage you to read the book as well, and have provided a list of questions to promote discussions with your child. There is no required written response over the summer, but students should be prepared to be articulate in their class discussions of the book. Additional assessment demonstrating basic factual knowledge of the book will take place following classroom discussions. It may be best to have students read the book closer to the start of the school year, so that it is fresh in their memories.

Serafina's Stories is available in hard cover at local bookstores at the cost of \$22.95. Amazon is charging \$18.36 for new copies, but it offers used copies at a lesser cost as well. A further option would be to negotiate an arrangement with current seventh graders who read this book last summer.

For families who would like extra reading opportunities, we have also included a list of recommended titles and authors.

Education is a partnership, and your encouragement, involvement and support are important components of your child's success. Thank you for your help in promoting literacy and a love of reading.

Sincerely,

Bosque School 7th Grade Teachers