

To the students of the 7th grade and their parents,

Summer is a time for reading books for fun, for exploring new books, or reading those that you didn't have time to read during the school year. Although I hope you will read a countless number of books this summer, I request that you read one book specifically for educational purposes.

This book is written in the narrative form. This story focuses on individuals who are searching for tolerance and acceptance in their relationships with their families and their community. **Seedfolks**, by Paul Fleishman unfolds a story of a blighted neighborhood transformed when a young girl plants a few lima beans in an abandoned lot. Slowly, one by one, neighbors are touched and stirred to actions as they see tendrils poke through the dirt. Hispanics, Haitians, Koreans, young, and old begin to turn the littered lot into a garden for the whole community. This is the story of thirteen very different people who come together to create a neighborhood.

I will provide you with a copy of **Seedfolks** (to be returned upon arriving back to school). The library has been notified of your summer reading book. You can also try local bookstores or online at Barnes and Noble

Upon returning to school in September, you will be given the task of writing a vignette. This form of narrative writing is a short literary sketch or description. In order to complete this task, it is imperative that you maintain some kind of annotation system, or "interactive notebook" to record your reactions and questions you may have while reading this novel. As you read, you should also note characteristics of narrative writing to aid you when writing your own vignette. It may be helpful to plot the story on the narrative arc.

Have a wonderful summer break. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs. Kosakowski