

June 2009

Dear Student,

Let me congratulate you on the successful completion of another school year. You certainly deserve a well-earned break. As with every other year, however, you do have a summer reading assignment. This year's summer reading assignment is *The Wizard of Oz*. Because this assignment is exclusive to Western Studies, you will have to purchase the book (Barnes and Noble has a list of our summer reading assignments and stocks multiple copies) or borrow it from your local library as we do not have any copies in our bookroom. Please let me know if this is a problem.

Many of you may be asking yourselves at this point, why is she asking us to read a children's book. I am asking you to read a children's book that also serves as a political novel. Enclosed in this folder are supplementary materials that will enhance your understanding of *The Wizard of Oz* as a political story about money reform in the 1890s. In this folder, you will find the following:

- Biographical information about L. Frank Baum
- Historical background on turn-of-the-century America
- Vocabulary (already defined for you)
- Symbols
- One critical essay
- Discussion questions
- Color log
- Illustration
- Maze

In addition to the book itself, you are required to read and complete all supplementary materials. You will find them helpful in completing your writing assignment when you return in September. I suggest that you read through all supplementary materials before beginning the book. There are some questions/tasks that will require your attention throughout the reading. (Hint: Discussion questions #18 and #19, the color log.) I have also included an extra credit assignment. For extra credit, you may color the illustration and complete and color the maze. FYI: You will have a reading check test upon your return.

If you have any questions or problems, you may contact me via e-mail over the summer: serickson@bhprsd.org. I look forward to seeing all of you in September. Please bring this folder and its contents with you upon your return. Have a happy, safe, and relaxing summer vacation!

Regards,

Mrs. Erickson
Western Studies