May 2014

Dear Wildwood Division One (6th Grade) Students and Families,

We are so thrilled to begin working together this next school year. We have an exciting program waiting for your input and participation. Following are two requests we are asking of each student this summer.

We are collecting postcards from every student telling us about their summer. Did you take a vacation? Tell us about the trip! Not traveling outside of Los Angeles? Then send us a card from here. We want to know what kind of summer each student has had. Please send the card to:

Division One Teachers
Wildwood Middle and Upper School
11811 Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064

We look forward to hearing from every student! Also, during the summer we ask that Division One students choose a book to read from one of the following great books and be ready to discuss. Each book is about a different culture. Students must choose a book that is about a culture that is different from their own. The choices are:

1. *Habibi* by Naomi Shihab Nye
2. *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
3. *Taking Sides* by Gary Soto
4. *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate

When we return in August, students will be placed in groups with a teacher who has chosen the same book to read. To aid students with participation in the book discussions, we recommend that students use sticky notes (or journal) to mark the parts we will talk about, as below. In groups, students should be prepared to discuss the following elements of the book you have chosen, including:

- **Characters**: Who is your favorite and why?
- **Plot**: What part of the plot did you find most interesting, frightening, surprising, maddening, or disappointing? What did you like best?
- **Author’s Purpose**: Why do you think the author might have written this story?
- **Connection**: What did you learn about someone of a different culture than your own? What connections did you make with these characters or situations?

Have a great read!
Division One Teachers