



Marion Cross School

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Shawn Gonyaw, *Principal*

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Principal

Dear Caregivers,

You frequently ask us how you can best support your child's academic growth during the summer. One simple response is to help them to become avid readers. Research has shown that the more children read, the more success they experience across academic subjects. As important, we have seen firsthand how reading can cultivate deep empathy, promote self-reflection, and build cultural competency. Making reading central to your child's life is a true gift. Reading with your child can have significant academic and social-emotional benefits, even for older students. Having your child read favorite passages or describe the action of a picture to you, talking with them about the books you read, asking questions about the books they are reading, listening to audiobooks on family road trips, and going to the library together are all ways to nurture your child's and family's reading life.

While reading is often a very personal and solitary act, particularly in the context of summer reading, we believe that shared reading experiences have the added benefit of building community and creating a touch point across grades and disciplines. For the second year, we are excited to engage MCS families in a Community Read experience. Our book for this summer is *Once Upon a Time There Was and Will Be So Much More* by Swiss author, Johanna Schaiblel. Each family will receive a personal copy of *Once Upon a Time* to enjoy over the summer and for years to come. Its theme of the passage of time invites opportunities to make many personal connections. Take a journey through time beginning in the distant past, catching up to the present, and then leading us to contemplate questions for the future. This exploration of the past, the present, and the future will help us launch a yearlong exploration of the question, "When are we?" The uniquely tactile illustrations invite deep consideration and multiple readings. As you explore *Once Upon a Time* as a family, we hope that the book will spark rich conversations and deep personal reflections.

There are questions and activities you may wish to explore together as a family included at the end of this letter. When we return to school in the fall, we will gather in celebration and exploration of *Once Upon a Time* with our sixth grade students leading cross-grade discussions and activities. Much of our work at the start of the school year centers on building a warm, welcoming, and socially and intellectually nurturing classroom and

school community, and we are excited to incorporate our Community Read into this process.

Beyond *Once Upon a Time*, we hope that your summer will be filled with many wonderful reading experiences. We have included links to summer reading lists for book suggestions and resources for ways you can support young readers. Thank you for all the ways you support the young readers in your life. If you have any questions about the summer reading program, please reach out to us.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

Jillian Van Ells, Librarian

Lucy Hampton, Reading Specialist



For summer access to [PebbleGo](#)

Username: mwc

Password: read

For summer access to [Epic](#) use the class code rzs4040