Dear Prep Parents and Guardians:

As a school rooted deeply in Jesuit tradition, the Prep holds reading as a requisite imperative. Our founder, Ignatius of Loyola, emphasized emphatically the vital importance of studying literature, as it is through literature that we learn to better understand our own humanity.

To be fully human, Ignatius taught, involves *cura personalis* – care for the whole person. By exploring wide ranges of stories and ideas via the written word, Prep students enhance their critical thinking, develop compassion for others, cultivate appreciation for other cultures, and become more well-rounded individuals.

The summer break can be a time of rest and relaxation away from the daily rigors of the school schedule. It is also a wonderful time to read. Our hope is that the Ignatian goal of being inspired by reading can extend to entire families.

Unless otherwise indicated by course requirements, assigned reading this summer will be a matter of preference and family participation. We ask that you choose a book – any book – and read it together as a family. Consider reading excerpts from your chosen work aloud together. This will aid reading comprehension, mental acuity, listening and processing skills, and fluency of delivery.

We suggest that you make a commitment to discuss the book earnestly – its themes and nuances and messages -- with each other, perhaps at a scheduled time each week. We believe that parents' thoughtful involvement and full participation will best help us achieve our goal of keeping Prep students engaged with the written word during the summer months.

Any book of age-appropriate standard and caliber is a worthy choice. However, if you need suggestions, the Prep faculty and administration have compiled a list of suggestions that you can find linked below.

Thank you for your openness and investment as we partner to develop your sons in the Jesuit tradition. We wish all Prep families memorable educational experiences together this summer.

- SJP English Department