

## One School, One Book

### Summer Reading for Rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

#### *Fish* by L.S. Matthews

This summer, in addition to traditional summer reading, all IB middle school students will be reading the same book: *Fish* by L.S. Matthews. **For your convenience, St. Mary's has copies for students to purchase at a discounted rate. The cost is \$5.00. Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will turn their money in to Mr. Schaeffer. Rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will turn their money into their current classroom teacher, Mr. Woodburn or Ms. Benton. All money is due by Monday, May 29. Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Catholic School.**

There is no additional assignment students must complete over the summer, but we encourage them to read and discuss the book with their families and friends. When students return in the fall, the entire middle school will gather again, and in small groups lead by teachers, the students will discuss topics that arise in the book. Teachers will also provide subject-related opportunities in their classrooms for students to inquire, think critically, apply and extend what they've learned from reading.

Information on traditional summer reading for rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders is attached.

#### **Book Summary for *Fish* by L.S. Matthews**

When the political situation becomes too grave, a family of foreign aid workers makes a perilous journey to the border of the war-torn nation that they've called home.

*My story starts the day that my parents told me we must leave our adopted home forever. Because of the soldiers and the drought, we barely had enough to eat, and we could no longer stay to help the people in our village.*

*The journey would be hard – to cross the mountains and get to the safety of the border and the people there who could help us. But right when we were leaving, I saw a fish in a small, brown puddle, and I knew I had to take it with me. When I put the fish in the pot, I never realized what we would have to face. It never occurred to me to leave Fish behind.*

A subtle and sophisticated exploration of life, the strength of humanity, and survival in an unforgiving world, *Fish* is a story that will teach those who doubt that, when hope is almost extinguished, miracles can happen. (Ages 10+)