

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Program



Dear Parents of SJA Children in grades 4-8 for the 2009-10 school year:

Educational research supports the need for children to read at home on a regular basis. Fifth graders who read independently for 10 minutes/day end up reading a total of 622,000 words/year while those who read 20 minutes/day read 1,823,000 words per year! [Reading Research Quarterly, 23(3)] This directly impacts the size of their vocabularies, their reading comprehension levels and their overall reading ability!!

The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award was developed to encourage children in grades 4-8 to read for personal satisfaction. It is an Illinois award presented to an author for outstanding literature for young people and is sponsored by the **Illinois Reading Council, the Illinois School Library Media Association, and the Illinois Association of Teachers of English.**

Illinois students participating in the Caudill program each year read a minimum of 3 books on the list and vote for their favorite in February. Schools submit their tallied votes to the award committee and the overall winner for the state is announced in March of each year. A plaque is given to the author of the winning book.

The **2009-10 Rebecca Caudill Award nominees*** are listed on the back of this page; this list is also available at all local bookstores, libraries and the SJA website. The local community libraries & bookstores, as well as our SJA library, have a designated shelf where the "Caudill" books are kept. For the summer, the SJA Caudill books will be available for checkout from a cabinet outside the main office.

What does this program involve for your child??

- Between now and February 2010, s/he reads a minimum of 3 books on the list. Participating students are asked to take an easy, objective test (5 questions) for each Caudill book read. These tests are not nearly as detailed as the accelerated reader tests and are solely intended to verify that a book was read.
- As books are read, students obtain a copy of the quiz on the SJA website and then e-mail their answers to Megan Patterson, Student Coordinator at cynthiapatte4791@aol.com. Megan will be keeping track of participation in the program and regularly communicating with Mrs. Jablonski, SJA Librarian.
- There are NO MEETINGS and NO COMPETITIONS.
- On February 16th (Fat Tuesday), a special pizza luncheon will be held with Sr. Carolyn for all participants who've read 3 of the books. Each student will vote for their favorite book at this time.
- In March, we'll learn which book was the overall winner for the state of Illinois.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Jablonski, SJA Librarian, or any of the coordinators below. All of the Caudill books are Accelerated Reader (AR books) AND all are also on the Junior High approved list for Lit. Log assignments. READ TO SUCCEED!!



4th & 7th grade coordinators: Lisa Jansen 434-8611 jansen2426@comcast.net

6th grade coordinator: Julie Carballo 369-8358 jmcarballo@aol.com

5th & 8th grade coordinators: TBA – please call if you're interested

(*Parents are advised to review the annotated bibliographies of these books at www.rebeccacaudill.org to determine if the content of a specific book is appropriate for their child's reading, interest and maturity levels. More information about the program, including how to nominate a book for next year's master list, is also available at this site.)

