Come to our bookfair at Barnes and Noble Southlands Thursday, May 16th from 4-8 pm
Your summer books will be available for purchase. You can also order them online or get one at a local library. We will have other books for next year’s English classes available for purchase as well.
A portion of all proceeds goes back to Legend High School!

Purpose, Expectations & Resources:
Reading stimulates the mind and keeps us thinking about how we endure and thrive in our world. Legend High School’s summer reading program is in place to honor your individual tastes in literature while offering opportunity to explore new texts and keep your reading skills sharp. During the first week of school, you will be expected to show your understanding of the book you choose. You will have a reading quiz as well as a writing assignment (during school, not summer). So, choose the kind of story you enjoy and then sink into your summer reading! All you need to do for now is read.

Parents, we encourage you to read along and discuss the book with your student. Please note that some books may have language or scenes that do not fit with your personal choices. In an effort to provide choice, we have several titles for you to choose from. You are always welcome to research the books first and choose one that best fits your philosophy and taste in literature. Enjoy!

Honors & AP English students: see the last page for your assignments.
Warning: Do not rely on movie versions (if they exist) for your book!!! Your essay and quiz will be over the book!!!

Incoming 9th Grade (English I & Read/Write Strategies) - Choose One of the Following:

**The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer (Sci-Fiction)**
Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster—except for El Patrón. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón’s power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive.

**Looking for Alaska, John Green (Fiction)**
Before. Miles “Pudge” Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave “the Great Perhaps” even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young.

**Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie (Autobiographical Fiction)**
Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, cleverly illustrated, and beautifully written, [the book] is based on the author's own experiences. [It] chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

**Sold, Patricia McCormick (Fiction)**
Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures, like playing hopscotch with her best friend from school, and having her mother brush her hair by the light of an oil lamp. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family’s crops, Lakshmi’s stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at “Happiness House” full of hope. But she soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution.

Incoming 10th Grade (English II) - Choose One of the Following:

**Call of the Wild, Jack London (Autobiography)**
London's version of the classic quest story using a dog as the protagonist has sometimes been erroneously categorized as a children's novel. Buck, who is shipped to the Klondike to be trained as a sled dog, eventually reverts to his primitive, wolflike ancestry. He then undertakes an almost mythical journey, abandoning the safety of his familiar world to encounter danger, adventure, and fantasy. When he is transformed into the legendary "Ghost Dog" of the Klondike, he has become a true hero.

**The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver (Fiction)**
This debut novel follows the gritty, outspoken Taylor Greer, who leaves her native Kentucky to head west. She becomes mother to an abandoned baby and, when her jalopy dies in Tucson, is forced to work in a tire garage and to room with a young, battered divorcee who also has a little girl. With sisterly counsel and personal honesty, the two face their painful lot (told in ponderous detail). With Turtle in tow, Taylor lands in Tucson, Ariz., with two flat tires and decides to stay. The desert climate, landscape and vegetation are completely foreign to Taylor, and in learning to love Arizona, she also comes face to face with its rattlesnakes and tarantulas. Similarly, Taylor finds that motherhood, responsibility and independence are thorny, if welcome, gifts. This funny, inspiring book is a marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment and everyday miracles.

**Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Mark Haddon (Fiction/Murder Mystery)**
Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

**Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card (Sci-Fi)**
Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

Incoming 11th Grade - Contemporary Literature and American Tapestries
Choose One of the Following:

**Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom (Non-Fiction)**
This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil has soared to the bestseller list for many reasons. We meet Morrie Schwartz--a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. And finally we are privy to intimate moments of Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed mensch manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully.

**Sarah's Key, Tatiana de Rosnay (Historical Fiction)**
Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel’ d’Hiv’ roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours. Paris, May 2002: Julia finds herself compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, from that terrible term in the Vel d'Hiv', to the camps, and beyond. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins to question her own place in France, and to reevaluate her marriage and her life.

**Glass Castle, Jeanette Walls (Memoir)**
For two decades, MSNBC.com contributor Jeannette Walls hid her hardscrabble past as the child of two rebellious nonconformists (who sometimes put painting before parenting). With her riveting memoir, The Glass Castle, Walls breaks her silence to reveal a triumphant story of strength, success, and unconditional love.

**Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams (Sci-Fi)**
Don't leave Earth without this hilarious international bestseller about the end of the world and the happy-go-lucky days that follow...about the worst Thursday that ever happened and why the Universe is a lot safer if you bring a towel.

Incoming 12th Grade - World Literature and British Literature
Choose One of the Following:

**Albion Imperilled, Ruth Thomas (Fantasy) EBOOK**
Albion Imperilled is the compelling new fantasy fiction by Ruth Thomas concerning four children who stumble upon the threshold to a magical domain. The opening chapters are set in the present day and the “children” are all now fully-grown and middle-aged. This book is both an imaginative fantasy and as a satirical commentary on contemporary Britain with all its social and political tensions. *(The ebook is now available at www.newfantasyfiction-books.com)*

**Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood, Alexandra Fuller (memoir)**
In *Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight*, Alexandra Fuller remembers her African childhood with candor and sensitivity. Though it is a diary of an unruly life in an often inhospitable place, it is suffused with Fuller’s endearing ability to find laughter, even when there is little to celebrate. Fuller’s debut is unsentimental and unflinching but always captivating. In wry and sometimes hilarious prose, she stares down disaster and looks back with rage and love at the life of an extraordinary family in an extraordinary time.

**Slam, Nick Hornby (fiction)**
For 16-year-old Sam, life is about to get extremely complicated. He and his girlfriend-make that ex-girlfriend- Alicia have gotten themselves into a bit of trouble. Sam is suddenly forced to grow up and struggle with the familiar fears and inclinations that haunt us all. Nick Hornby’s poignant and witty novel shows a rare and impressive understanding of human relationships and what it really means to be a man.

**The Secret Keeper, Kate Morton (historical fiction)**
Juliana St. John is the daughter of a prosperous knight. Though her family wants her to marry the son of her father’s business partner, circumstances set her on a course toward the court of Henry VIII and his last wife, Kateryn Parr. For she knows a secret. She has been given the gift of prophecy, and in one of her visions she has seen Sir Thomas shredding the dress of the king’s daughter, the lady Elizabeth, to perilous consequence. As Juliana learns the secrets of King Henry VIII’s court, she faces threats and opposition, learning truths about her own life that will undo everything she holds dear.

**Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein (historical fiction)**
Rich in historical detail and intrigue, *Code Name Verity* is a vivid reminder of what makes historical fiction so compelling. In exchange for a temporary stay of execution and lesser forms of torture, a young female spy captured in Nazi-occupied France writes a confession of her activities in the Resistance. Her story is that of two women who should never have crossed paths, yet were destined to become the best of friends and embark upon the covert mission that would determine which of them would live or die. Courage born of friendship, fierce hope, surprising twists, and ironies abound in this spellbinding novel that will appeal to teens and adult readers alike.

LEGEND HIGH SCHOOL 2013 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

This summer book IS part of your curriculum. You are only expected to read this/these assignment(s). You do not need to choose one from the lists above. Additional projects and assignments accompany each of these books. Please see the LegendTitans.org website, Moodle, and your teacher for the complete assignment.

**Warning:** Because you will likely be asked to annotate your books for your honors and AP classes, DO NOT get a copy already annotated by another student. We will be checking to ensure that your annotations are your own.

**Incoming 9th Grade (English I Honors):** You will choose ONE of these.

**Either Night, Elie Weisel,**
In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir Night, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family.

**OR Farewell to Manzanar, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**
Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp—with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. Farewell to Manzanar is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.

**OR The Book Thief, Markus Zusak**
Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

**Incoming 10th Grade (English II Honors):** Do BOTH assignments.

**Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger,**
The influential and widely acclaimed story details three days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world.

**AND House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros**
Esperanza Cordero, a girl coming of age in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

**Incoming AP Language & Composition Students:** And complete assignment.

**Outliers: The Story of Success, Malcom Gladwell**
In this stunning new book, Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from.

**Incoming AP Literature & Composition Students:** You will choose ONE of these.

**Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen**
As usual, Austen trains her sights on a country village and a few families--in this case, the Bennets, the Philips, and the Lucases. Into their midst comes Mr. Bingley, a single man of good fortune, and his friend, Mr. Darcy, who is even richer.

**OR Beloved, Toni Morrison**
In the troubled years following the Civil War, the spirit of a murdered child haunts the Ohio home of a former slave. Sethe finds the haunting oddly comforting for the spirit is that of her own dead baby, never named, thought of only as Beloved. Though a powerful story of a mother's love, please note that this novel does have challenging and graphic topics.

**OR Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens**
The story is about an orphan Oliver Twist, who endures a miserable existence in a workhouse and then is placed with an undertaker, from whence he escapes and travels to London.

**OR Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver**
The novel follows an evangelical Baptist minister's family to the Congo in the late 1950s, entwining their fate with that of the country during three turbulent decades.

Come to our bookfair at Barnes and Noble Southlands
Thursday, May 16th from 4-8 pm
Your summer books will be available for purchase. You can also order them online or get one at a local library. We will have other books for next year’s English classes available for purchase as well (honors & AP students need to purchase or obtain their own books).
A portion of all proceeds goes back to Legend High School!