Teen Read Week is a yearly national celebration during October in which libraries promote reading with contests, prizes, displays, and special events. The Hyde Library at MUS has participated by holding readings, staging scenes from MUS plays, and giving away cookies over the past eight years. Two years ago, we instituted two events: the Battle of the Books and the Reading Contest. This year we moved our reading contest to an online survey format, allowing students to enter the titles of every complete book they had read since the school year began. Students simply listed the title, author, and number of pages for each book. Results were amazing: the first place Upper School winner, Ethan Schaffer, had read 65 books this school year; the first place Lower School winner, Clay Harrison, had read 22 books. Zack Whicker and Jacobi Rice placed second in Upper and Lower School, respectively. Prizes for top readers were awarded in the form of iTunes gift cards.

We also conducted a single Battle of the Books contest for the whole school with questions based on summer reading books. For the first few rounds, each student was asked a question on the book of his choice, but as the competition continued, the host (Mrs. Crosby) began to select questions from the reading list for the student's grade. First and second place winners were awarded iTunes gift cards. The winners were: 1st place, Ahmed Latif; 2nd place, Omkar Hosad.

Thanks to all of our parent volunteers who helped make Teen Read Week a success!

The week was capped off by a very successful visit from T. A. Barron, author of The Merlin Saga, Atlantis Rising, and many others. Barron spoke in chapel, presented images and videos about his books, signed books in the Dining Hall while speaking with students and faculty, and met with a group of about 30 students who are interested in writing. He encouraged students to write, to find the heroic within themselves, and to follow their passion. In connection with our visit, we asked students to submit creations in any medium they chose to our Create Magic contest. Andrew Elsakr was our first place winner with his short story submission.
Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card (November 1, 2013)
The alien Buggers threaten humanity with extinction, and Earth’s ultimate savior may be one small boy. Andrew “Ender” Wiggin plays computer games simulating his command of Earth’s last great fleet, only to discover he has been cruelly deceived.

Divergent by Victoria Roth (March 20, 2014)
In the future, you are born into one of five factions, each of which has its strength and focus: Abnegation (service), Candor (truth), Erudite (intellect), Amity (friendship), or Dauntless (fearlessness). But on your sixteenth birthday, you can choose a new faction if you are so compelled, and that’s what happens to Tris, who shocks everyone by exchanging the drab gray robes of Abnegation for the piercing and tattoo stylings of Dauntless.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (November 8, 2014)
Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands.

The Fault In Our Stars by John Green (June 6, 2014)
Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel’s story is about to be completely rewritten.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (December 13, 2013)
Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure.

The Essential Thor by Stan Lee (November 8, 2013)
Relive meek Dr. Donald Blake’s transformation into the legendary God of Thunder in this collection of the Mighty Thor’s earliest classic adventures! With his mystical hammer Mjolnir at his side, Thor sets out to bring justice to Earth. Collecting: Journey Into Mystery #83-112.

Exam Week Refuel
It’s nearly time for the library’s annual Exam Week Refuel! Grab hot chocolate or coffee and a pastry in the library foyer in the morning before your big test.