This year we celebrated Teen Read Week’s “Unleash Your Story” theme by hosting an author visit, giving prizes and overdue book coupons, serving snacks, and offering contests. Here are the contest results: for the Write Your Own Story contest, first place went to Jory Meyers and honorable mention to Omkar Hosad in the Upper School, while the Lower School winner was Vince Boberski.

On Friday of Teen Read Week, author Jack Gantos visited MUS. With a chapel talk, a book signing, and class presentations, Gantos gave MUS a full day of instruction and fun. Mr. Gantos has published books for all ages, including a memoir detailing his journey to the writing life and a recent book about creative writing. He won the Newbery Medal in 2012 for his autobiographical novel, Dead End in Norvelt. He developed the master’s degree program in children’s book writing at Emerson College and the Vermont College M.F.A. program for children’s book writers. His talks were enthusiastic and filled with captivating stories, and his books sold well during the book signing.

After his chapel talk, the library staff served cookies and snacks in the Dining Hall. Mr. Gantos signed books, talked with students, conducted writing workshops during 4th and 6th periods, and had lunch with the book clubs and faculty.
**Writing Radar** by Jack Gantos. With the signature wit and humor that have garnered him legions of fans, Jack Gantos instructs young writers on using their "writing radar" to unearth story ideas from their everyday lives. Incorporating his own misadventures as a developing writer, Gantos inspires readers to build confidence and establish good writing habits.

**Theft By Finding** by David Sedaris. For forty years, David Sedaris has kept a diary in which he records everything that captures his attention—overheard comments, salacious gossip, soap opera plot twists, secrets confided by total strangers. These observations are the source code for his finest work, and through them he has honed his cunning, surprising sentences. Now, Sedaris shares his private writings with the world in this first of two volumes.

**Braving the Wilderness** by Brené Brown. "True belonging doesn't require us to change who we are. It requires us to be who we are." Brown has sparked a global conversation about the experiences that bring meaning to our lives—experiences of courage, vulnerability, love, belonging, shame, and empathy. In this book, Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization.

**All the Crooked Saints** by Maggie Stiefvater. Here is a thing everyone wants: A miracle. Here is a thing everyone fears: What it takes to get one. Any visitor to Bicho Raro, Colorado is likely to find a landscape of dark saints, forbidden love, scientific dreams, miracle-mad owls, estranged affections, one or two orphans, and a sky full of watchful desert stars.

**Shake It Up** by Jonathan Lethem & Kevin Dettmar. This collection is a hit parade of the most outspoken and distinctly personal voices from a half century of writing about rock and pop music. Rock music changed America, and Shake It Up reveals that the generation of writers that grew up with it found ways to write about it that mirrored the music's freedom, homemade inventiveness, and rebellious energy.

**We Were Eight Years in Power** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. "We were eight years in power" was the lament of Reconstruction-era black politicians. In this sweeping collection of new and selected essays, Ta-Nehisi Coates explores the tragic echoes of white supremacist rule in the South with events occurring in our own time.