

June 15, 2010

Dear Eleventh Grade Students,

We hope you are enjoying your summer thus far. It is hard to believe that you are ready to embark on the ever-important junior year. We are excited to work with you this year, exploring great books and engaging in lively conversation about the history and literature of the United States.

Your first assignment for English 11 is to complete your summer reading of Junot Diaz's *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* and engage in an online discussion using the SHC Ning. In order to complete the assignment you must do the following:

- Choose 3 discussion threads to which you will post an original response. In your response, which is approximately 200 words in length (a well-developed paragraph), you must cite and respond to a piece of text (remember to include your parenthetical citation!).
- Comment upon or respond to 2 postings of your classmates (these posts should be approximately 150 words in length).

Discussion communities will be available on the SHC Ning beginning July 15<sup>th</sup>. We expect all students to have completed two of the five postings by August 1<sup>st</sup>, and all five postings must be completed by August 30<sup>th</sup>. The quality of your responses will be graded by your teacher and included in your first trimester average.

In order to access the Holy Child Ning, go to <http://holychildschools.ning.com>. Once there, login and search the groups for Summer Reading 2010: *Oscar Wao*. More detailed instructions are available on the Holy Child website (<http://www.holychildrye.org>).

If you have any questions or trouble accessing the Ning, please do not hesitate to email us ([k.gazso@holychildrye.org](mailto:k.gazso@holychildrye.org) or [k.marlow@holychildrye.org](mailto:k.marlow@holychildrye.org) or [j.whitt@holychildrye.org](mailto:j.whitt@holychildrye.org)).

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you upon your return in September.

Best,

Kathryn Gazso  
English Department Chair

Kate Marlow  
Eleventh Grade Teacher

Jennifer Whitt  
Eleventh Grade Teacher