

June 15, 2010

Dear Ninth Grade Students,

Welcome to the Upper School at School of the Holy Child! We are excited to welcome you to the Upper School community and we look forward to working with you throughout the year.

This summer all ninth graders are required to read Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle*. Walls' memoir chronicles her journey through adolescence as she endures various adventures. Summer reading is an important, and hopefully enjoyable, part of learning in the Upper School. In order to make your reading of *The Glass Castle* meaningful, we ask that you read the novel and complete the described assignment.

Your assignment is to chronicle several experiences in your life that have brought you to this place: the start of your freshman year at Holy Child. You should not attempt to capture your entire life, but "windows" into your life. In a **visual** presentation, due on Thursday, September 9th, you should represent 5 "windows". While you may chronicle any five experiences, here are a few ideas that might help you get started:

- A summer experience
- An important person
- A fear
- A special place, or a vivid memory
- A disappointing experience or challenge, or a success story
- A wish or dream
- A value or family tradition
- Personal style

We will both discuss the novel and present the "windows" assignment during the opening days of the school year. We hope you enjoy reading *The Glass Castle* as well as this opportunity to share a bit of your journey to Holy Child with us. If you have any questions, you can email us (k.gazso@holychildrye.org or k.marlow@holychildrye.org).

Best,

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English Department Chair

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