Parents,

I want you all to be aware of an upcoming project that is focused on The Holocaust. I have planned a three week study of independent research and inquiry, focusing on the Holocaust, as well as a chance for your student to read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, and participate in multiple literature circles where students discuss the book through guided questions provided by Ms. Price. This project meets a number of our Common Core Standards such as:

Literature Focus (*Number the Stars*): Through these standards, students will be identifying story elements such as plot, conflict, characters, theme, point of view, and how these elements contribute to and affect a story.

RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6

Informational Text Focus: Through these standards, students will be analyzing informational text. This information will be used to help them in their writing and their presentation.

RI.6.2, RI.6.4, RI.6.7

Writing, Presentation, and Speaking Focus: Students will be writing and presenting their findings to their peers. They will have to come up with effective ways to communicate the most valuable and relevant information pertaining to their topic.

W.6.2, 2.6.4, W.6.6, W.6.7, W.6.9, SL.6.4, and SL.6.5

As you can see, students will be exercising many valuable skills, while also learning about an event that has profoundly shaped our history. I hope that you will support your student while tackling a difficult topic.

As you all know, this can be a very difficult topic for students to understand, which is why I want to keep you in the loop. Students will have questions for both me and for you regarding this topic. Please know that the material they will be exposed to in class will be age appropriate and as filtered as possible.

Students will be selecting one of three research topics which include: the life of Elie Wiesel, The Night of Broken Glass, and life in the ghettos. These topics are age appropriate, and will not contain information that is quite as graphic as other topics pertaining to the Holocaust. Students will conduct independent research through Wake County sponsored search engines- Grolier and Britannica, 1-2 websites provided by the teacher, and one book source found in the DRMS media center. Students **should not** use search engines such as Google, Yahoo, or Bing for this project at school unless an adult is accompanying them (a 6-1 team member, an ICR push in teacher, or Ms. Ziller, our librarian). If students are using their time wisely at school, they should not have to work on this from home. If they do want to work on their project at home, please assist them in their research, and I encourage them to only use the search engines provided by the county instead of Google, Bing, or Yahoo. This is to make sure they are receiving accurate, age appropriate information at all times.

At the end of their research, students will present the information they gathered through the use of a Web 2.0 tool. Practicing their presentation will help them to be successful on the presentation piece.

Lastly, to wrap up our study of the Holocaust, students will be hearing from a Holocaust survivor. Some of the information the speaker covers may make students feel sad, upset, or cause a strong emotional reaction, but he does keep it age and grade appropriate. If students do not want to participate, they do have the option to stay on team during his talk.

While I do encourage students to participate in this project, I am aware that some families may have strong feelings about this topic. If you feel that your student may struggle emotionally because of any cultural or family ties to the topic, I understand, and I will provide them with an alternative assignment that is equally rigorous and will cover most of the research and writing standards that the other project covers. This assignment will take place at school during the class time provided for the Holocaust research project. Their grade will be determined by a different rubric that is more fitting for that assignment, but the grade for the assignment will be entered under “Holocaust Research Project” in Power Schools.

Please select one of the options by putting a check mark:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I give consent to let my child participate in the Holocaust Research project. I understand that both Ms. Price and I will guide and monitor my student in their research to make sure that the student is always researching accurate and appropriate information.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I opt for my child to complete the alternative assignment that covers most of the writing and research standards that are covered in the other project. If you are opting for your student to participate in the alternative assignment, please let me know if you still want them to participate in reading *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my student may read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No, my student may not read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*This signature verifies that you understand the decisions you have made, and you consent to the statements you have checked above.

Thank you for allowing me to teach your child. I know that it is a big responsibility, and it is one that I take very seriously. I look forward to helping your child learn and grow this year. As always, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Ms. Caroline Price

cprice4@wcpss.net