

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Parents:

This month our school will once again be embarking on a special project, an all-school book club called *Mill Hill Reads*. Every family will receive a copy of the same book – The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo – along with a special bookmark - and will be asked to read it at home over the next two weeks, according to the schedule on the bookmark. We will then pass the books along to another school to enjoy. I am personally asking you to make the time so your family can participate in this special activity.

Kate DiCamillo is an award-winning author – and one of only six authors who has won two Newbery Medals. We are excited to share her writing with the entire Mill Hill Community! The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane was chosen because of its broad appeal to a wide range of ages as well as its themes of friendship, kindness, resilience and learning to love others over self. We wanted you to be aware that Chapter 17 contains a reference to alcohol and Chapter 19 deals with the death of one of characters. Please preview these chapters and address them as you see fit through discussion.

Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares your child to be an effective reader. But it is also a fun, worthwhile family activity. With the *Mill Hill Reads* program, we aim to build a community of readers at our school. Everyone – students, parents, teachers, and even administrative staff – will be participating, and we can all reap the many benefits.

Mill Hill Reads is a novel program in that children at all grade levels will all be listening to the same book. Strange or daring as that may seem, it actually makes sound educational sense. Reading professionals recommend reading material aloud that is beyond a child's own reading level. And we also believe that you can and should continue reading chapter books with your older children, even when they are able to read by themselves. We have selected a title that can be followed, understood, and enjoyed by younger students, but that will still captivate and stimulate older children.

Daily trivia questions will be announced over the loud speaker. Correct entries will be placed into a weekly drawing for a chance to win a gift card to Barnes and Noble.

Good luck! I hope to talk with both you and your student sometime this month about all the great adventures and compelling themes in this wonderful story! "When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about." With your help, we can build a Community of Readers at our school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Chase".

Kevin Chase
Principal

