

Dear Families,

This year, students entering 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are embarking on a special project, a unique book club called *One School, One Book*. It is a program designed to engage and involve parents in the essential task of fostering the love of reading in children. This summer, students entering 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be reading the novel, *Save Me a Seat*, by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan. The story focuses on two classmates, Joe and Ravi, who have very different backgrounds and feel that they have little in common. Joe finds school to be a challenging place because of his auditory processing disorder and because his mother has recently started working in the school cafeteria. Ravi is brand new to the school, having recently moved with his family from India. Both boys experience bullying by another student, and they eventually find friendship and strength in each other.

The *One School, One Book* initiative is designed to create a shared learning experience between our school community and home. Every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade family is asked to read the book over the course of the summer, with the goal of promoting a shared reading experience through families reading aloud with their children. Reading aloud to your child has tremendous educational benefits and can be a source of enjoyment for both students and parents. Read-alouds are not only enjoyable for beginning readers, but are just as essential for students in the upper elementary grades, as well. Reading comprehension improves as students listen to and discuss events, characters, and motivations. They learn to predict what will happen next as well as increase their vocabulary knowledge and build syntactic awareness. To facilitate this process, families can access a **Discussion Guide** on the AIM website which features questions that can be used to talk about the book at home. Our utmost goal is to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading, a gift your child will treasure forever.

In addition to reading the novel, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are asked to create a **Summer Reading Project** that reflects what they have learned after reading the novel. Ideas for projects, listed on the **Summer Reading Project Selections Sheet**, range from creating a diorama or a video, to writing a new ending for the book. Students will be able to share their projects at our *One Book, One School Celebration* in mid-September during the school day.

Along with reading *Save Me A Seat*, we strongly encourage you to support your child in reading independently, reading with you, and listening to audiobooks as much as possible.

We thank you in advance for your support with this important endeavor and hope that you and your child have a wonderful time enjoying many great books together this summer.

Happy Summer Reading!