



September 26, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This month our school will be embarking on a special project, an all school book club called One School, One Book. Every family will receive a copy of the same book – Betty G. Birney’s *The World According to Humphrey* - and asked to read it at home over the month of October. I am personally asking you to make the time so your family can participate in this special activity.

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 One School, One Book 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.

Your child will receive his/her copy of *The World According to Humphrey* at a special school-wide assembly introducing the program and the book. When the book comes home, you will receive a tailored reading schedule so you can keep up at home. You will be asked to read a chapter a night – about 15 minutes per night.

In school, your child will be invited to answer daily trivia questions to encourage and reward attentive, aggressive listening. You will soon find that your child will take pride in knowing and anticipating the details of the story. In class, there may be various activities which discuss or explore the book. You will want to make sure your family keeps up so your child can be included. Throughout the month, everyone will be talking about *The World According to Humphrey*!

One School, One Book 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 out loud 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 and understood and enjoyed by younger students, but that will still captivate and stimulate older children.

Good luck! I hope to talk with both you and your student sometime this month about Humphrey the Hamster and the lessons he teaches the students and adults in his school. “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.

Happy Reading!

Stacey M. Merritt
Teacher Librarian