



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Starting at the end of April, our district will be embarking on a special project, an all district book club called **One District, One Book**. Every family will receive a copy of a book - the junior high is reading Rob Buyea's *Because of Mr. Terupt* - and be asked to read it at home over the month of May. 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 District, One Book** program, we aim to build a community of readers at our school. Everyone - students, parents, teachers, even administrative staff - will be participating, and we can all reap the many benefits. Reading for just twenty minutes a day will expose your child to 1.8 million words per year and can lead to improved academic achievement and success on standardized tests.*

Your child will receive his/her copy of *Because of Mr. Terupt* during enrichment on April 29. When the book comes home, you will receive a tailored reading schedule so you can keep up at home. Generally, you will be asked to read a chapter a night – about 20 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. You will want to make sure your family keeps up so your child can be included. Throughout the month, everyone will be talking about *Because of Mr. Terupt*!

One District, 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 Mr. Terupt and the effect he has on all his students. "When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about." With your help, we can build a Community of Readers in our district.

Fred Hunter
Principal of Parker Junior High School

Every Family. Every School. Every Night.®