



CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

JOHN PISCITELLA
Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Over the next few weeks our school will be embarking on a special project called "One School, One Author, Two Books." Grades 5 and 6 will receive a school copy of the same book – Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks' *Save Me a Seat* and be asked to read it at home over the next few weeks. We are personally asking you to make time so your family can participate in this special activity. Administrators, teachers, and the rest of our building staff will be participating in the school wide event. Even the author herself will be making a special appearance.

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 Author, Two Books program, we aim to build a community of readers at our school.

Your child will receive a copy of *Save Me a Seat* from his/her homeroom teacher and there will be an assembly to introduce the program and the book. 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 15 minutes per night.

In school, your child will be invited to answer daily trivia questions to encourage and reward attentive 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. We encourage your family to make time to read together so your child can be included. Throughout the month, everyone will be talking about *Save Me a Seat*!

One School, One Author, Two Books initiative is a novel program in that children at all grade levels will be immersed in the books from the same author that in some way encompass the Carmel 6 C's. Reading professionals recommend reading material that is beyond a child's own reading level out loud for better comprehension. 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.

Good luck! We hope you have as much fun talking about these characters as we do! "When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about." In our case, there will be twice as much to talk about with two different books being read! Together we can build a Community of Readers at our school.

Sincerely,

John Piscitella
Principal

Christopher Barrie
Assistant Principal

Nancy Cyrus
Assistant Principal

Michael Kirk
Assistant Principal

Cultivating Opportunities

