

# THREE RIVERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

— READ. LEARN. DREAM. —

Dear Families:

Our community is about to take part in a special, shared reading event. Each family that signs up to participate will receive a copy of the book—*Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan—and will be asked to read it together at home over the next few weeks. We hope to see you for the Community Conversation about *Save Me a Seat* on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm at the Huss School, 1008 8<sup>th</sup> St., Three Rivers.

As a community, we have been reading several books that explore race and diversity, including adult books, *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendi and *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo, teen books *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram Kendi and *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone. We've chosen *Save Me a Seat* to encourage families to explore how differences impact and often strengthen the friendships children make at school.

In addition to the book, you are receiving a sample reading schedule (approximately 15-20 minutes each session), discussion questions for each chapter, and a bingo board with free choice activities that you might enjoy trying with your family. If you haven't already "liked" our Facebook page, we encourage you to do so, as there will be weekly activities and trivia questions posted throughout September and October.

For this activity, we are taking advantage of the resources of a non-profit organization called **Read to Them**, that supports school-wide reading initiatives such as this. The library would love to be a part of programs like this in the future.

**Read to Them** is based on several research-based principles. Reading aloud at home is valuable because it prepares your child to be an effective reader, and it is a fun, worthwhile family activity. Also, children of 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. 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 will still captivate and stimulate older children.

We know that you'll enjoy this special reading time with your children. We look forward to hearing what your family has to say about Joe and Ravi and how *Save Me a Seat* relates to their experiences in the Three Rivers community.