

words ^{Words} Words
words words words
Words ^{Words}
words Words
Words

September 2015

Dear East Hills Family:

"It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations--something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own." Katherine Patterson

Enhancing a love and appreciation of literacy is of top priority at East Hills School. One of the many varied ways in which we achieve this goal is through our yearlong Book of the Month. These books are meant to create opportunities for your children to think deeply about text and appreciate the myriad craft moves that the authors use to write across genres. I know that your children will connect to these books on many levels and visit them over and over again within their classrooms. As we have done in the past, your children will have an opportunity to bring these books home so that you too can share in the conversations around each text.

Have you ever pondered over the perfect word to use in a written sentence or part of a conversation with a friend or colleague? You know, when words such as "good," "happy," "worry," "thoughtful" and others are just too "plain." As I contemplated over the perfect book to share for our first month, I thought, "What book will inspire our children and us to take risks with words and allow our vocabulary to become more enhanced? What message do we want our school community to echo as we start off our year with new beginnings, new wonders, and new ideas? How can we empower all of our children so that they are able to find the right words to use whenever they need them?" The answers are imbedded in this wonderfully written and illustrated nonfiction text entitled, ***The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus***, written by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Peter Mark Roget saw books as his best companions. It wasn't long before he began writing his own book. He didn't write stories; he wrote lists. *"Peter took his love for words and turned it into organizing ideas and finding exactly the right words to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time."*

We are partnering this book with a fictional text entitled, ***One Word Pearl***, written by Nicole Groeneweg and illustrated by Hazel Mitchell. Pearl loves words. She collects words and keeps them in her word chest using a new one each day until all of the words have been used. What will Pearl do?

It is our hope that these books inspire your children to become voracious about words: look more closely at them, repeat them, try new ones, and create their own lists of favorite words. I look forward to hearing them and reading them.

Wishing you a month filled with wonderous words!

Fondly,
Mrs. Krieger
Mrs. Krieger