



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school is about to take part in a special school-wide shared reading event. Every family will receive a copy of the same book – *Save Me a Seat* by *Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks* – and will be asked to read it together at home over the next few weeks. We are personally asking you to make the time so that 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, and it is also a fun, worthwhile family activity. With this program, we aim to build a Community of Readers at our school. Everyone – students, parents, teachers, even administrative staff – will all be following along together.

Your youngest child will receive the family's copy of *Save Me a Seat* by *Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks* after a special school-wide assembly introducing the program and the book on Monday, May 6th. Along with the book, you will receive a reading schedule so that you can keep up at home. Generally, you will be asked to read about 15 minutes each night.

In school, your child will be invited to answer daily trivia questions to encourage and reward attentive listening. The daily questions will also be posted on the Connaught School Facebook page and website so that your family can also participate together. You will soon find that your child will take pride in knowing and anticipating the details of the story. In class, students will explore the book through activities and discussion. You will want to make sure your family keeps up so that your child can be included. Throughout the month, everyone will be talking about *Save Me a Seat* by *Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks*!

This is a novel program in that children of all grade levels will all be listening to their parents read the same book. 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 hope to talk with both you and your children sometime this month about Ravi and Joe and how we come to truly understand those around us. "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!

The Literacy Committee

(Mme Spencer, Mme Neigum, Mme Guerette, Mme Wittevrongel, Mme Quinlan, Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. Schmaltz, M. Hadden)

*Every Family. Every School. Every Night.®*