Peck Elementary Pigs Out on Reading

After great success with their One School, One Book reading of Charlotte's Web, Peck Elementary in Peck, Michigan has decided to expand to three books this year. In October, the K-6 building will be sharing Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's Shiloh. Then in the winter, they plan to choose another OSOB selection.

Danielle Bezotte, a teacher at Peck Elementary, says, "The unity that OSOB creates within our school and community is amazing. Everyone is buzzing about the book: teachers, students, administrators, parents. OSOB has helped bridge a communication gap and gives everyone something to talk about."

Peck Elementary has even paired with a local theater—the Firebird—to show the film versions of their OSOB selections on the big screen for school staff and families.

Bezotte says, "The smiles that light up each child's face when they receive their new copy of the OSOB selection says it all. They are excited to get reading and share the story at home."
Wendy Orr, author of *Nim's Island*, a Read to Them recommended book, took some time to share some thoughts with us. She discussed the importance of reading together at bedtime, community building, and more. Here are some highlights, but you can read the entire interview on our website.

A lot of schools are coming together around *Nim's Island*, including creative activities like producing plays. Wendy loves this, saying, "My characters are always very real to me, especially one like Nim, who’s lived with me for so long (especially if I consider her first incarnation in a story I wrote when I was nine!), so it’s absolutely wonderful to know that she’s going off and having more adventures independently of me. It’s a bit like seeing your child go off to school and have new experiences and make new friends on their own."

As a mother, Wendy believes in the importance of reading aloud together. She says, "It’s one of the most important things you can do with your children. My mother read us bedtime stories till I was about twelve, and my father told us crazy made-up stories. However, it wasn’t until I had my own children that I realized the power of that intimate time with parent and child or children focused on the same thing, with the close physical contact, and the importance of that calming routine - ideally with no television or outside distractions. I actually believe that the most important part of it is the strengthening of the bond between parent and child. The power of One District, One Book is the extension of that bond to the community, as everyone focuses on that one story."

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**Book Spotlight: Nim's Island**

Filled with suspense and comedy, Wendy Orr's *Nim's Island* is an original tale sure to please both students and parents alike.

Nim lives on an island with her scientist father and her best friends: a sea lion, an iguana, and a sea turtle. One day, her father sets off on a three-day expedition, leaving Nim alone. But she's not worried, she can chop down banana trees with a machete, climb tall palm trees, and even start a fire with a piece of glass. Soon enough, though, she loses contact with her father and has to put her survival skills to the test.

If you’re looking for your next OSOB book, look no further than *Nim's Island*. 
2015 Model School:
J.C. Sawyer Elementary

Congratulations to J.C. Sawyer Elementary school in Elizabeth City, NC, the 2015 One School, One Book School of the Year.

In 2014-2015 J.C. Sawyer read three books together: Jacqueline Davies' The Lemonade War, Tony DiTerlizzi's Kenny and the Dragon, and Betty Birney's Humphrey sequel, The Summer According to Humphrey. To Promote the Lemonade War, Principal Chris Paullet wore a lemonade suit as part of a skit featuring dueling lemonade stands provided by Read to Them.

Naturally J.C. Sawyer is making plans to read three titles again in 2015-2016. Paullet has already presented his experience, enthusiasm, and the effects of One School, One Book to educators in North Carolina and Read to Them is optimistic that his own experience and influence will spread to schools in Elizabeth City and beyond.

2015 Model District:
Watertown, New York

We salute Watertown, NY for pioneering and implementing One District, One Book on the "Year-Round Reader" model and are proud to name them Read to Them's 2015 District of the Year.

Under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Mary Margaret-Zehr and the support of Superintendent Terry Fralick, Watertown's five elementary schools and one middle school read two books in 2014: Betty Birney's The World According to Humphrey and Jean Craighead George's My Side of the Mountain.

They didn't stop there, though. In 2015 Watertown went all the way and shared three titles with their families over the course of the entire school year: Andrew Clements' Frindle, Betty Birney's Humphrey sequel Friendship According to Humphrey, and R.J. Palacio's miraculous middle school tweener title Wonder.

Congratulations to Watertown. We look forward to hearing more from what Superintendent Fralick called "the most successful school community event in recent memory."
Our New Titles

The first of Judy Blume's celebrated Fudge books, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* follows Peter, who must deal with his brother Fudgie's disgusting cuteness, constant get-in-the-way-ness, and other grave offenses, all told with a big-heart and humor.

by Judy Blume

Beverly Cleary, a Newbery Medal-winning author, brings us the third and final Mouse Novel. Ralph heads to school with his friend Ryan. To test Ralph's smarts, Ryan has him run a maze. Time to find out just what the "S" in Ralph S. Mouse Stands for.

by Beverly Cleary

There is nothing in the world John Midas loves more than chocolate. He'll eat it any hour of the day, even if it ruins his appetite. But one day John wanders into a candy store, buys their best chocolate and soon finds out there's such a thing as too much chocolate.

by Patrick Skene Catling

Based on a Rocky Mountain legend, *Stone Fox* follows Little Willy, who, with the help of his dog Searchlight, is determined to save his grandfather's farm by winning the National Dogsled Race. Will he beat out Stone Fox, who has never lost a race?

by John Reynolds Gardiner

Charlie Bumpers just learned his fourth grade teacher will be the strictest in the whole school. Even though she's been named Teacher of the Year, Charlie is wary. The "Teacher of the Year" has been after him ever since he accidently hit her with a sneaker.

by Dan Cutman

*The Homework Machine* follows the D Squad, a ragtag group of fifth graders bound together by one very big secret: a machine, code-named Belch, that does all their homework for them. But soon the group starts attracting too much attention, exactly what they don't want.

by Bill Harley

¡Hablamos Español!

*Read to Them* is proud to offer many titles in Spanish. For questions about these titles or any others, contact Programs@ReadtoThem.org