

MUNSEY PARK SCHOOL

COMMUNITY READ – SEPTEMBER 2014

“Sometimes it just takes One.”

Dear Munsey Park Families,

We are happy to continue an exciting program across all grade levels. Each month, every class at Munsey Park enjoys a “read-aloud” of the same special book. This unites our school community in critical discussions of text and establishes our culture of responsibility and caring.

To start off the year, we have selected One by Kathryn Otoshi for students to focus on *respect* and the issue of dealing with bullies. One is a wonderful picture book that renews the simple and powerful message of the power of one person. The story’s message is simple enough for our younger students and is also appropriate for older children to develop a greater understanding of the complex themes of empathy and standing up for oneself and/or friends. The colors and numbers in this story are a metaphor through which students may critically reflect and discuss their social roles, relationships, and empathy.

Teachers may plan activities that focus on engaging, guiding, and extending critical thinking in their lessons and discussions based on One during September. We invite you to continue discussions at home to further critical evaluation of the complexity of the world and relationships. A copy of One is available in our office. Please feel free to come in and take a few minutes to read the book while you are in the building. As you may already know, each month a new book will focus on a specific character trait; students may exhibit that trait in their everyday home and school lives.

On behalf of all of us at Munsey Park, thank you to the team of teachers and parents for making this program a reality. With your help and cooperation, we believe this will be another great year of learning and character building for our children.

Warmest regards,

Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.
Principal

Suggestions for critical discussions and fun activities:

Mindlinks: “Sometimes It Just Takes ONE”

Questions based on concepts introduced in One:

- How do you feel about yourself?
- Do you ever feel different about yourself with different people?
- Has someone ever said hurtful words to you or someone you know?
- What did you do? What did others do? How did you feel? What happened?
- What can you do if someone bullies you?
- What can you do if you see someone else being bullied?
- How can you take a stand? What does it sound like? What can you say to a bully?
- Who are “bystanders?” What power do they have when someone is being bullied?

