**December 2018 Newsletter**

LLD Program with Ms. Colby



**December CARES Theme: EMPATHY**

The theme empathy is continued from November into this month. It's such an important theme that it needs extra time devoted to it! The students are continuing to build on understanding of character motivation and development in new books this month.

In third grade, we are reading the book Amber Brown is Not a Crayon by Paula Danziger, about a girl whose best friend is moving away. Sometimes it can be difficult to have a big change happen in your life, but the book reinforces the lesson that empathy can help you understand how those same problems you are dealing with may be just as hard for others around you.

In fourth grade, we are continuing our read aloud of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by JK Rowling, and we are discussing how character relationships can change over time. At first, the character of Hermione is not friends with Harry and Ron and they tease her for being a know-it-all. Harry

and Ron feel badly about the way they had been treating Hermione and help her overcome a troll-sized problem, which is a good point in the book to talk about how your actions can affect others and how your words or actions can make someone else feel.

In fifth grade, we are starting Small as an Elephant by Jennifer Jacobson, a novel in which the main character is abandoned by his mom. The reader must understand what Jack's motivation is to get back home without going to authorities, and how he comes to terms with his mother's mental illness.

**Recommended Resources:**

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena

Just Because by Amber Housey

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt