**November 2018 Newsletter**

LLD Program with Ms. Colby



**November CARES Theme: EMPATHY**

Empathy is one of the most important themes of the year here in the LLD program. When students are reading, they are often asked to describe the feelings and motivations of a character in the book; this is a great skill for understanding character development, but it is also an effective way to build empathy. Students are asked to make inferences about characters' motivations for actions taken, a skill that depends on their ability to understand the feelings of that character. They are also asked to do this during our oral language activities, when they might be watching a video short with no dialogue. When children can't rely solely on explicit language to understand the feelings of others, they begin to tap into other forms of communication for clues.

In fifth grade, we are finishing Number the Stars by Lois Lowry, and the writing prompt that goes along with the book asks students to think about how the events in the world have changed the protagonist. They will have to understand how the character has changed because of what is happening around her, and how she feels about the challenges she has faced. In third grade, we are reading The PS Brothers by Maribeth Boelts, which presents the difficult challenges faced by two young boys who are living in difficult socioeconomic circumstances. The ability of the reader to empathize with the characters is vitally important to understanding the motivations of the boys throughout the book.

**Recommended Resources:**

What's Wrong With Timmy? by Maria Shriver

The Wall by Eve Bunting

Terrible Things by Eve Bunting

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

One by Kathryn Otoshi