L.E.N.S. FOCUS

L – Literacy

E – Educators’

N – Network of

S - Saskatchewan



(formerly the Saskatchewan Reading Council)

**DECEMBER, 2019**

**BIG IDEA Focus: One Community, One Book**

***‘One Community, One Book – Wishtree by Katherine Applegate’***

 In January of 2019, St. Paul’s School, Yorkdale School, Dr. Brass School, St. Alphonsus School and St. Michael’s School in Yorkton, SK began a One Community, One Book adventure! Together, all 5 schools gave their school families a copy of the book Wishtree by Katherine Applegate as well as a reading calendar for the month of January. Each evening every family was invited to read aloud together the chapters listed on the calendar. This read aloud lasted about 10 minutes each evening. The next day, the schools asked a trivia question about the evening’s reading to continue promoting the book and help ensure families were reading. Students would answer the question and some schools tabulated classroom trivia results to post and gave out different prizes for correct trivia answers.

 To celebrate the end of the book and our journey of reading together, some schools also hosted a Family Literacy Night on Family Literacy Day at the end of January. At St. Paul’s School, we embraced the celebration and learning about different cultures theme of the book and greeted each family with their own ‘Passport’ which they used to collect stamps from the 5 Stations / Countries they visited that evening. Our featured countries were:

Canada – where we sampled different breads from around the world (eg. Naan, Paska, Bannock, etc.) as well as different flavours of tea

 Korea – where we learned different taekwondo forms

 Tibet – where we created prayer flags

 Africa – where we practiced our drumming skills

 United Nations – where we labelled flags from around the world in a Kahoot game

It was an exciting night of learning and having fun together with families from all over our community as we had guests join us from our local collage’s EAL program as well as local and provincial members of government who had also been given copies of the book to read at the beginning of the month.

Over 600 copies of Wishtree were distributed through Yorkton and area during this program. The book created many opportunities for communication and for seeing how we welcome others in our community. The students also had many opportunities to learn about new cultures as we featured the Ukrainian culture, First Nations culture, Nigerian culture and Irish culture in our opening ceremonies at St. Paul’s as well.

Overall, it was an excellent literacy experience and we are looking forward to our 2020 One Community, One Book journey with Slacker by Gordan Korman! If you would like to join our journey, please contact Tammie Latimer at St. Paul’s School in Yorkton. (306-783-9212)