



**Snow Hill Elementary School's "One School, One Book"
Appleblossom the Possum, by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

Dear Parents & Family Members,

Our school is about to take part in a special, communitywide shared reading event! As in years past, every family will receive a copy of the same book, and will be asked to read it together at home over the next few weeks. This year our selection is Holly Goldberg Sloan's *Appleblossom the Possum*.

Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares your child to be an effective reader, and it is also a fun, worthwhile family activity. With this program, we aim to build a Community of Readers at our school. Everyone - students, parents, teachers, even administrative staff - will all be following along together.

Your child will receive a copy of *Appleblossom the Possum* at a special school-wide assembly introducing the program and the book. Along with the book, you will receive a reading schedule so that you can keep up at home. Generally, you will be asked to read about 15 minutes each night. **Don't forget to log your steps 😊**

Additionally, your child will receive a response packet and will be invited to answer drawing and writing prompts to encourage and reward attentive reading. You may soon find your child will take pride in knowing and anticipating the details of the story! On Fridays, during a special D.E.A.R. time, students will explore the book with their teachers and classmates through activities and discussions. Throughout the month, everyone will be talking about *Appleblossom the Possum*!

"One School, One Book" is a novel program in which children of all grade levels will all be listening to their parents read same book. Daring as that may seem, it actually makes sound educational sense. Reading professionals recommend reading material out loud that is beyond a child's own reading level. We also believe that you can, and should continue reading chapter books with your older children, even when they are able to read by themselves. We have selected a title that can be followed and understood and enjoyed by younger students, but will still captivate and stimulate older children.

I know that you'll enjoy this special reading time with your children. I hope to talk with both you and your student sometime in the days to come about *Appleblossom* and the adventures she has with her many brothers and sisters. "When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about." With your help, we can build a Community of Readers at our school.

All my best,

Every Family. Every School. Every Night.®