



March 6, 2024

Dear Families:

This week, many schools around the nation are celebrating literacy in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, which was on March 2. (Did you know that he would've turned 120 years old this year?) That's one of the reasons why we had our annual book fair last week. I can think of no better way to celebrate Dr. Seuss—and reading in general—than by having a book fair!

It was great to see all of our students scour the shelves for a new book to read. From our youngest learners in 3K to our soon-to-be graduates in eighth grade, there was a book there for everyone. What made the fair even better was to see parents join their children after school so they could buy books together! I even purchased a book (or two!) for my daughter. She's a big fan of Jory John's books, so I got her *The Big Cheese*, one of the few books of his that she doesn't yet own.

Speaking of favorite books, just outside the main office is a bulletin board filled with pictures of book covers. These aren't just any book covers; they're the covers of books that our teachers and staff selected as their favorites. There's a few Dr. Seuss books up there, along with classics like *The Giver* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. What most of these books have in common is that an overwhelming majority of our teachers and staff chose books that they themselves read as students when they were in school!

One book on the board that stands out to me most is *The Outsiders*, which was selected by Ms. Allison, who helps out in our school office. Why that book? My first year at Saint Mark I taught *The Outsiders* to Ms. Allison (then just Allison) and the rest of her seventh-grade classmates! It's great to know that after all these years a book I taught her is her favorite!

No matter what grade-level or subject they teach, every teacher at Saint Mark—even the principal—is a teacher of reading, and so are you parents! Dr. Seuss said it best, “*You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.*”

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal