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For Immediate Release
October 24, 2023

Reading Will Take Center Stage in Suffolk Elementary Schools and Homes This Fall

Once again, this fall, reading will be the hot topic of conversation in schools and families across Suffolk with the launch of the All Suffolk Reads program. Beginning on October 25, students and their families in Suffolk’s elementary schools will read and discuss the children’s book *Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renee Watson together over nearly a month.

This marks the third All Suffolk Reads book. Last fall, families read *Cleo Edison Oliver's Playground Millionaire* by Sundee Frazier. This past spring, families read *EllRay Jakes is Magic* by Sally Warner. Founded by veteran educator and literacy promoter Gary Anderson, All District Reads brings schools, families, and the community together to “light literacy fires” in students’ homes.



Through the program, families read and discuss one chapter each night from the book for a period of nearly a month. Depending on the day, students may have two chapters instead of one to read. Schools support the program with trivia questions, prize drawings, and other fun book-related activities. At a culminating event in November, one lucky winner at each SPS elementary school will receive a grand prize donated by local businesses/organizations.

Students will receive their books at launch day events for All Suffolk Reads on October 25. Local businesses and the Suffolk Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of North Suffolk provided

funding so that each elementary family throughout Suffolk Public Schools would receive their own free copy of *Ways to Make Sunshine*. Families also will receive a free parent resource guide along with the book. The goal is to help children develop a love of reading by stimulating family reading and discussing books.

“We are happy to release our third book, “Ways To Make Sunshine” by Renee Watson, in our partnership with All District Reads. Now our students are interested in the series with these characters, and our engaged with fun, together in the

Dr. Gordon program by reading chapter of *Ways to* Other school leaders, and Rotary



families are fully literacy, and time home.”

will kick off the aloud the first *Make Sunshine*. officials, business Club members will also do recorded readings of chapters and participate in community activities that support the concept of family literacy.

The All-District Reads concept is spreading across the Hampton Roads region. Elementary students in Norfolk Public Schools are also reading *Ways to Make Sunshine* this fall. Virginia Beach City Public Schools elementary students are reading *EllRay Jakes is Magic*, and elementary students in Northampton County Public Schools are reading *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney.

To learn more about the All Suffolk Reads program, contact **Jonita Shabazz** (jonitashabazz@spsk12.net). To learn more about All District Reads, visit the website at <https://alldistrictreads.org>.

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