

November 24, 2022

Dear BC families!

Birch Cliff Book Club is launching its' first ever community book club and we're very excited to invite students and families from **Grades 5 - 8** to join us! Our goal is to spread the love of literacy outside our school walls and savour a good book together. The book we'll be reading is "**The Barren Grounds**" by David Robertson.

Here's how our book club works: students need to find an adult who will read the book with them at home. You can read together in bed, in the car, while doing dishes, on the bus, anytime! You can also read the book separately, for example deciding to read Chapters 1-3 week one, depending on your weekly schedule. You'll experience the book together and learn more about each other in the process. We're welcoming all family members to join us; grandparents, aunts and uncles, babysitters, dogs, cats. You can even read together with someone who lives far away using Facetime or Zoom! Everyone is welcome if they have read the book. Read the back of this notice for more details about the book. At school we will have meetings with students to do fun activities, discuss progress, content and questions that may arise from the book. We will mark our accomplishment with a BC Book Club after-school celebration for all participants; students and grown ups. **Our goal is to finish this book by mid February, 2023.**

The library has purchased 30 copies of the book that we will sign out to interested participants. Please complete and return this form to your child's homeroom teacher by **November 30th** to indicate your interest. Once we've received this form, we will send home a copy of the book along with a reading timeline to help us all set goals and be ready for in-school meetings with students.

Happy Reading!

The Birch Cliff book club,
Ms Briggs, Ms Cairns, Mme Helder, Ms Kokolakis, Mlle Smedley & Mme Trott

Name of student: _____ **Grade:** _____

Adult participating: _____ **Relationship to Child:** _____

Adult email: _____

*** PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR TEACHER BY *
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**

From Another Story Bookshop:

Narnia meets traditional Indigenous stories of the sky and constellations in an epic middle-grade fantasy series from award-winning author David Robertson.

Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home -- until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom. A portal opens to another reality, Askí, bringing them onto frozen, barren grounds, where they meet Ochek (Fisher). The only hunter supporting his starving community, Misewa, Ochek welcomes the human children, teaching them traditional ways to survive. But as the need for food becomes desperate, they embark on a dangerous mission. Accompanied by Arik, a sassy Squirrel they catch stealing from the trapline, they try to save Misewa before the icy grip of winter freezes everything -- including them.

We specifically selected this award-winning book as it focuses on family, friendship, adventure, and Indigenous peoples of the Americas. We're also excited to look at a book that invites discussion about colonialism, family structures, climate change and fantasy. This action packed book offers us some great discussion opportunities and will introduce our students to a different genre of book. We hope you'll love it!

