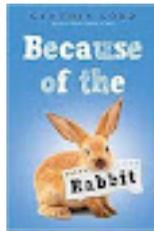


**From the Principal's Pen**  
**March 2022**  
**Submitted by: Jennifer McGee, Principal of Atwood Primary School**

**You can find magic wherever you look,  
Sit back and relax,  
All you need is a book.**  
**-Dr. Seuss**

March is the month of our big fundraiser at Atwood! It's Read-a-thon month!! It's also our community read month, so every classroom will be enjoying the same read aloud book: ***Because of the Rabbit*** by Cynthia Lord.



This is the third year we have had a community read aloud! I love it. It's such fun to have EVERY child... pre-k through second grade...familiar with the same wonderful book! It connects us in a new way as learners!

Speaking of connecting...there is no more magical way to connect with your children than reading to them each night before bed. I would give ANYTHING to turn back the clock and be able to recapture those sweet minutes each night. I would tuck in my children, they would choose their book and we would read and snuggle.

Don't get me wrong. There were those frantic nights when I didn't have my act together, the evening was chaos, and we would miss reading time....but I tried to make time, every night, for reading.

There is powerful research about the positive impact of reading with your children. Here are just some of the benefits:

- Supported cognitive development
- Improved language skills
- Preparation for academic success
- Developing a special bond with your child
- Increased concentration and discipline
- Improved imagination and creativity
- Cultivating. lifelong love of reading

We all are working together to do what is best for your children. Having your child become a thirsty reader will provide your child with a lifetime of enjoyment and escape☺. As a child, I would “sneak read” underneath my covers at night. My parents never spoiled me. I had only a few items of clothing in my closet, a modest chest of toys, but my father used to tell me I could have any book I asked for! My books were my most treasured items.

To this day, my best vacations are always vacations spent with a book in my hands.

With all of the distractions of technology and entertainment that comes through a screen, reconnecting by being side by side, reading a book, is even more special than ever.



Here is a list of the 12 most beloved books for children:

1. Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
2. The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
3. Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
4. Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
5. Little Bear by else Holmelund Minarik
6. Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
7. The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
8. The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
9. Tuesday by David Wiesner
10. Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
11. Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
12. Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Do you recognize any of those titles? Does it bring you back to any particular time or place in your life? When I saw ***Make Way for Ducklings*** on the list, it brought me back 50 years to a time when I used to go and visit my, long gone, Grammy in Boston. We would go to the Boston Public Gardens and retell the story of the ducklings crossing the road. Books and stories connect us.

It's no accident that my son is named Max☺... "That very night in Max's room, the forest grew and grew until his ceiling hung with vines...." (from: Where the Wild Things Are).

I hope you have fun with our Read-a-Thon this month! And when you have time, ask your child about our community read aloud book: Because of the Rabbit. May you find some joy in a book of your own!

Educationally Yours,

Jennifer McGee, Principal of Atwood Primary School

**Dates to Note:**

**February 21 -25: Winter Break...NO SCHOOL**

**March 8: Early Release Day...Noontime release**

**March 18: Full Day Inservice...NO SCHOOL for students**