

Building Community through Reading

By Paulina Poplawska, Library Director

Read Across America was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association and is guided by a committee of educators. The program runs year-round and focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and resources that are for everyone about everyone.

It's an opportunity to include books that children can see themselves reflected in and allows readers to see a world or a character that might be different from them.

Each month of the year focuses on a different topic. July this year is Build Community - an opportunity to get children reading, talking, and sharing to build a community where they all feel seen, heard, and validated. The three books featured for Building Community this month include:

- o "A New Kind of Wild" by Zara Gonzalez Hoang. Thanks to a new friend named Ava, Ren discovers the magic of his new home in the city.
- o "The Bridge Home" by Padma Venkatraman is a story of Viji who runs away with her sister Rukku, who has a developmental disability, and find shelter and friends in Muthi and Arul, on an abandoned bridge in Chennai.
- o "The Everything I Have Lost" by Sylvia Zeleny is a coming of age story set in today's Juarez. Twelve year old Julia keeps a diary about her life and keeps a list of things that she loses, which includes her father and her home when she and her brother are sent to live with an aunt in El Paso.

The library is aiming to build community through the activities of Summer Reading. We aim to make reading fun not just through the summer but year round. We hope to make children, teens, and adults continue a love of reading throughout their lives. This year, like last year, that includes no sign up for Summer Reading. We're focusing on a community goal of reading. Whether that's 20 minutes or 4 hours a day. It's about experiencing reading through a recipe you pick out of a cookbook or a landscaping project that you find at your local library.

The library is located at 17 N. Broadway and is open to the public Monday to Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. As always, we look forward to seeing you in the library soon! The library will be closed 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18 for an all staff training made available through the Traverse des Sioux Library System.