Dear Parents,

Children’s book Author and Illustrator, Amanda Russell, will be visiting our school to read her book, Jacob Loves Puddles on Monday April 22, 2024. Amanda’s 10 year old son has severe autism, and attends Brown Intermediate School in Madison, CT. Her books are based on her children and encourage the reader to engage with their special needs friends.

Amanda’s first book is a story that introduces the Art of Joining as a way to connect through play. In this book, Jacob is a very special owlet. He has special needs and requires unique approaches in learning how to live. He has no interest in flying. He is content with just watching the water gently flow by in the stream under his nest. His sister Geneva finds a way to use his love of water to teach him how to fly. This book is great for siblings and peers of special needs friends. It is meant to help them understand that learning can be quite the struggle for some of our friends. It also encourages them to find unique ways to engage with their special friends.

In Amanda’s second book, Jacob Loves Puddles, we see how Jacob’s unique passion for puddles becomes a source of curiosity and amusement for the other owlets. Unfortunately, their laughter saddens his friends, like Violet, who sees the special and extraordinary qualities in Jacob that others might overlook. It’s a poignant reflection on the challenges of being different and the importance of understanding, acceptance, and most importantly, inclusion.

You can read more about Amanda and her family’s journey on her website: www.KaringKritters.com.

Jacob Learns to Fly and Jacob Loves Puddles are available for pre-sale to your child before the event. Visit the website by scanning the QR code below or by going to www.KaringKritters.com, select “LOCAL PICKUP” at checkout and enter your child’s name, school, and home room teacher in the “ORDER NOTES” section. Please indicate how you would prefer to have your child’s name inscribed in the book (first name only, nickname, full name, etc) so that Amanda can prepare the books before the reading. Orders placed by April 21st will be delivered to the school on the day of the reading. If your child would like to purchase a book on the day of the event, send in this order form with cash or check for $12.75 (for 1 book) or $25.50 (for both books) made payable to: Karing Kritters, LLC.

Student Name: ___________________________________________________________

Home room teacher: _______________________________________________________

Autograph books to (please print): __________________________________________

Please select book: _____ Jacob Learns to Fly       _____ Jacob Loves Puddles

*Ordering will be open through April 28th. Books ordered after April 21st will be delivered to the school on April 29th.