A Wonder of a Book

Our One Book One School Experience

Presenters:
Megan Hartley & Beth Thomas
School Librarians LCJSMS Library Learning Commons
Inspiration

NJASL session November 2012

Seneca High School
Inspiration

January 2013:

Read _Wonder_ - perfect book for middle school students:

Accessible to both boys and girls

Not overly challenging for struggling readers

All middle schoolers can walk away with meaning from book

Positive message of choosing kindness

Cross-Curricular connections
Getting Started

Early Spring 2013:

Visited with principal to propose a One Book One School experience

Some hesitancy - are we putting “one more thing on teacher’s plate”

Why not make it one of the summer reading books?

Started to talk with RJ Palacio’s agent

Wrote a grant to get funding for author presentation and travel expenses
Outreach:

Attended Language Arts department meeting with principal to gauge teacher feelings - overwhelmingly positive

Met with guidance department to discuss connections with Advisory program

Met with the teams at every grade level in June to explain the concept and request support from all subject areas

Created a Google Doc with lesson ideas for various subject areas and made it editable so teachers could add their own lesson ideas (was early in district GAFE adoption so there weren’t many contributors)

Coordinated with public librarian and she ordered 25 copies of books, 3 playaways, 5 Overdrive copies, and Spanish copies
Planning

Created a timeline of events.

Brainstormed curricular connections.

So many resources helped us along the way…

They are listed on our One Book One School Libguide along with many other resources:

http://lcjsms.summit.libguides.com/wonder

or

http://bit.ly/1NqcRB2
How Do You Get Student Buy-In?

In June, the 8th graders created a movie that all students watched in homeroom. The movie included current students who had read the book and described their reaction. Incoming 5th grade students were also shown this video at their elementary school.
How Did We Get Parent Buy-In?

Librarians spoke at September parent coffee to explain upcoming author visit.

PTO promoted the author visit on their website.

PTO send information on the weekly parent blast.

Principal wrote article in Middle School newsletter for parents.

Contacted local press and school district publicity person to promote author visit.
Reached out to other schools (Colorado and North Carolina) that have already done your book.

Liz Waltzman at Scarsdale Middle School is a great source. They have an amazing amount of author visits.

Found news articles about Wonder. Fairfield, Connecticut used Wonder as One Book, One Town.

Pulled book reviews to support the impact of the book.
Promoting the Book- First Day of School

Ordered a “Choose Kind” Wonder banner.

The banner was placed at entrance of the school in September.

We got permission from publisher to copy image for banner.

Banner was created by Cheshire Studio, Ledgewood, NJ.

This banner set the tone for the year.
One Book One School in Action

8th graders required to do 20 hours of community service

Needed hearts for all students and staff to share their message about kindness. Had 8th graders cut out 1000 blue hearts to be distributed to all students during the all school “advisory” session.

Every student and staff member completed the sentence “Kindness is…” on their blue heart.

8th graders taped the 1000 completed hearts throughout the school building.

Vine video of hearts around school
One Book One School in Action

Day of Kindness:

Day where classes across school were asked to participate in a lesson that was related to the theme of *Wonder* - no activity too short!

Advisory: Every student and staff member shared a message about kindness on blue hearts. They were then placed all around the school.

Staff and students encouraged to wear blue

Scheduled during our Week of Respect

Student book discussion in library

Day after Ryan Halligan assembly
Curricular Connections

Advisory Lesson:

Students:

Watched the Wonder trailer

Filled in their kindness heart

Discussed what they learned from the book

Created individual and homeroom precepts related to kindness - homeroom precept was presented on poster board and signed by students

Wrote postcards to incoming 6th graders related to kindness and/or advice for being a middle school student. These were sent to the elementary schools.
Curricular Connections

Music - Taught the students the Christina Aguilera song “Beautiful.” The choir performed the song to open the “Night of Wonder”

Art - Cover art for display and Kindness Books

Special Education:

Twist stories about Julian using the precept “Sometimes it’s good to start over” as a starter

Photobooth activity

Gingerbread man activity - students follow directions to damage paper gingerbread man and then told to flatten it out and try to make it look like before. Asked how it related to kindness - moral is every unkind word or action can permanently affect or hurt a person.
Curricular Connections

https://vine.co/v/hwY0d3t1eBi

https://vine.co/v/hwYxpT35gns2
Curricular Connections

Science - Genetic Disease Research Project. Treacher-Collins added to list of diseases for students to research

Social Studies - precept activity and voting on favorite character

Language Arts - Book discussions, open-ended question practice, advice columns, mind maps, explore precepts

Math - Activity centered around the cost of different hearing devices

Digital Newsroom - special issue on Wonder
Evening Parent Book Discussion

A week before author visit invited interested parents to an evening book discussion.

Opportunity for outreach

A dozen parents and our principal joined us.

We generated discussion starters prior but conversation flowed naturally.

Each parent created a blue kindness heart to be displayed.

Intimate setting lent itself to openness: “I’m not sure how my child would react in a situation like this.”
A Night of Wonder

R.J. Palacio author visit

Over 800 people on a Monday evening

Books sold by local store

Ms. Palacio presented, took questions, posed for a group picture, and then did a book signing
A Night of Wonder
A Night of Wonder
A Night of Wonder
For a Good Cause

“Hoops for Humanity” - student-teacher charity basketball game

Students asked to vote for 2014 recipient

8th grade Digital Newsroom students created videos for candidates

Children’s Craniofacial Foundation were the overwhelming winner
For a Good Cause

is to create a world that accepts people for who they are, not what they look like.
Effects

Overwhelming positive feedback from staff

Students considered “different” empowered

Each grade decided to do a “One Book One Grade” selection for one of the summer reading books

Still looking for that “perfect” book to do another OBOS

6th Grade - Wonder is required summer reading book

6th grade Language Arts have incorporated The Julian Chapter into their curriculum
Extending the Experience

images from amazon.com
Any Questions?

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Thank You!

Seneca High School

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