Dear Parents or Guardians,

Strong reading skills set the stage for your child's successful education.  Part of the reason students have such a hard time reading is because they bring little prior knowledge or background to the written page. To help build students’ prior knowledge, the reading room will be assigning an "Article of the Week" (AoW) every other week. By the end of the school year we want the students to have read about 12 articles about what is going on in the world and to reflect on these articles. If our students are to become cultured, they must broaden their reading experiences with real-world text and think critically about what is going on in our world.

In order to bring the partnership together between home and school, we are asking that you read the article and have a discussion with your child. This will give your child an opportunity to have a discussion with an adult, instead of their peers, and gain insight and perspective from another person’s point of view. Your child will be sharing their reflection sheet with you and we are asking you to write a brief reflection about the **discussion** that you had with your child (ex. What did you talk about? Did you agree or disagree about anything? Did you talk about the effect the actions of the article have on the world? Etc.)

The AoW will be due two weeks after it is given. For your convenience, all articles, due dates, the reflection sheet, and audio versions of each article will be available on your child’s reading room teacher’s website.

We are looking forward to reading the reflections from you and your child. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to share a current event article with the class, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

**The Reading Room Teachers**

Mrs. Karras-Abajian rabajian@sd81.org www.mskarras.weebly.com

Ms. Buelow cbuelow@sd81.org www.missbuelow.weebly.com

Ms. Harris gharris@sd81.org www.msharris.weebly.com

Ms. Ortega aortega@sd81.org www.msortegarr.weebly.com

Mrs. Wood twood@sd81.org www.mrstiffanywood.weebly.com

Ms. Kleszcz mkleszcz@sd81.org www.mskleszcz.weebly.com