

Dear Incoming 6th Grade Parents,

In 6th grade, our service learning focus is caring for our veterans. Our summer read, *Craig and Fred*, provides helpful insight as to what life is like as an active duty veteran and also what challenges they may face when transitioning back to civilian life. The book brings to life the sacrifice veterans have made for us, the reality of P.T.S.D., and how veterans cope with life after their time in the service. It is both an educational and engaging read.

The topic of war can be a difficult reality to learn about. This book honestly deals with the pain and physical impediments of war injuries, including death. While it's done in an age appropriate way, it still may lead to questions and conversations at home. In addition, there are two sentences in the book that deal briefly with Craig's cohabitation with his girlfriend. We don't condone this, but want you to be aware.

The main focus of the story is Craig's relationship with Fred, a stray dog he befriends in Afghanistan. Craig's entire unit grows to love Fred and helps send him to a new home in America. Fred enables the veterans to discuss their wartime experiences and cope with their feelings. It's an unlikely friendship that changes the lives of many for the better.

This letter is to invite you to join in on the discussion opportunities possible from this book with your child. We will be discussing this book and tying it in with our veteran focus at school, but you may choose to play a more active role at home as well.

Sincerely,
6th Grade Team