



## THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Contact* Kristin Reichelt Bernier  
*Telephone* 860-283-3036  
*Email* [kbernier@thomastonschools.org](mailto:kbernier@thomastonschools.org)  
*Website* [www.thomastonschooldesk.org](http://www.thomastonschooldesk.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 11, 2017

## THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATES “WONDER”

### Families Participate in a Special Birthday Party

**Thomaston, CT, October 11, 2017**—Students, teachers, community members and families gathered together in the Thomaston Center School cafeteria on Tuesday evening, October 10, 2017, in celebration of a fictional character’s birthday as part of a One School, One Book initiative. Students were excited to share cake and ice cream in honor of the main character, August Pullman, and talk about their experiences reading the novel *Wonder*, by RJ Palacio. Ms. Kristin Bernier, Principal at Thomaston Center School, stated, “*Wonder* was selected as our first novel to read together as a school community because our students can relate to the fifth graders’ struggles to fit in and for its positive message of ‘choose kind.’”

At the evening event, students and their families had an opportunity to create art projects focused on the themes in *Wonder*. Together, they made self-portraits and discussed their own unique talents. Additionally, students had a chance to share precepts, positive affirmations, and thoughts about the novel.

The event was well attended with more than 125 people in attendance. One student remarked it was a fun way to talk about the book while another parent noted, “This program is a great way to get kids involved in reading!” Ms. Susan Larson, Reading Intervention at Thomaston Center School, added, “It was a joy to hear from one parent that her daughter never liked reading or finished a book until she read *Wonder*, and that she's now reading the second book, *Auggie and Me*. The mother and daughter were both thankful for the experience. I am looking forward to the continued enthusiasm as we unveil our next two titles this year! Reading changes lives!”

The One School, One Book program provides students with greater opportunities to share literacy experiences with families and the community around a common theme. *Wonder*, by RJ Palacio, is the first of three novels planned this this year. The One School, One Book program is generously funded through a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation. The event was also supported by Cutie Pies, a bakery in Thomaston.



*Sixth Grade student Jenna shares her self-portrait inspired by the novel **Wonder**.*



*Thomaston Center School students enjoy the crafts and refreshments at the Wonder family night on October 10, 2017.*

**Thomaston Board of Education Mission Statement:**

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

*-TBOE Policy 0100*

**Goals and Objectives of the Thomaston Board of Education:**

The Thomaston Board of Education believes that all students have a right to an education which is based on standards of excellence, which stresses rigorous demands and which serves to expand students' personal horizons. The Board believes that the education of each student is the shared responsibility of students, parents, faculty, and administrators. The Board also recognizes that students differ in their interests and abilities and therefore the district offers a comprehensive program consisting of a variety of learning experiences. The Board believes that an important function of the school is to prepare students for participation in our American democratic society. The Board seeks to improve the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capacities of all students. The Board encourages the development of thinking and communication skills, the tolerance of and responsibility for others, and the understanding of varied cultures and life styles. In order to implement this philosophy, recognizing that elementary, middle and high school education are important steps in a lifelong process, the Board of Education establishes the following objectives:

- A. To teach the essential skills traditionally associated with the various disciplines.
- B. To develop the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- C. To extend and refine the students' ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate printed, visual, and aural material.
- D. To develop critical thinking.
- E. To further the students' development of self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-esteem.
- F. To promote the physical well-being of all students.
- G. To promote creativity and appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- H. To encourage students to consider both the alternatives to and the consequences of their actions in the decision making process.
- I. To present career options and to assist students in setting tentative goals.
- J. To help the student appreciate that learning is integrated and continuous.

*-TBOE Policy 5010*

#####

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier at 860-283-3036 or email at [kbernier@thomastonschools.org](mailto:kbernier@thomastonschools.org).