

# Blue Spruce & Silver Birch Reading Program @ West Rouge JPS

Today the students attended a special Revved for Reading @ West Rouge assembly to officially kick off the “Forest of Reading Program 2014 @West Rouge”. Our intent is to engage all students to read this year’s nominated books for both the Blue Spruce and Silver Birch categories. We have acquired books for both the Blue Spruce and Silver Birch programs but multiple copies of all the titles are also available at your local library. All titles and book blurbs, tracking sheets and posters are available at the OLA web site link below.

[https://www.accessola.org/OLAWEB/Forest\\_of\\_Reading/Current\\_Program\\_Year/OLAWEB/Forest\\_of\\_Reading/Current\\_Program\\_Year.aspx](https://www.accessola.org/OLAWEB/Forest_of_Reading/Current_Program_Year/OLAWEB/Forest_of_Reading/Current_Program_Year.aspx) )

The Blue Spruce Award program brings recently published Canadian children’s picture books to children between the ages of 4 and 7 (junior kindergarten to grade two). This program promotes reading for enjoyment and begins to develop a child’s skill in evaluating a picture book based on story, text and pictures; teachers will share many of these excellent stories with the students.

The Silver Birch Award is comprised of three separate lists: Fiction, Non-fiction and Express. Our Express list is made up of both Fiction and Non-fiction titles and are quick easy reads. The Silver Birch program is meant for readers aged 8 – 12, (grades 3-6) with the Express list typically suited to readers in grade 3 and 4.

Students will be encouraged to begin reading in February and continue reading until April 2014, when voting will take place. The votes are tallied from students all across Ontario to choose a winner from each list. Students must read a **minimum of 5 books** from a list in order to be able to vote for their favourite book from that list. Many students will want to read all the books from a list, so that they can make the most meaningful choice!

In order to help them keep track of what they read, and to share their ideas and excitement about the books, we will meet a few times during lunchtime and/or recess. Students will record which books they read and comment on them in their Silver Birch Passport. We will also discuss the books by answering a few simple questions about them. Many teachers and administrators have read the books and are experts of certain titles and students will be encouraged to share their thinking about specific titles with staff and parents.

The Silver Birch Reading Program is a fantastic way to be introduced to new Canadian authors, to express their opinions about what students like to read, and to hear what others have to say, as well. West Rouge students will be encouraging authors and honouring their work. They will also experience the enjoyment of reading and talking about books with their friends.

We are really looking forward to running this program. We are definitely **Revved about Reading @ West Rouge!**