



## **Santa Rosa County School District Launches *One District, One Book*<sup>®</sup>**

Milton, FL- The Santa Rosa County School District is proud to announce the launch of One District, One Book<sup>®</sup>, a school, family and community opportunity beginning Monday, May 4 through May 29. This initiative includes all students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade and their families. Each student will receive their own personal copy of *A Boy Called Bat*, written by acclaimed author Elana K. Arnold. *A Boy Called Bat* is the delightful story of Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), an elementary-aged boy on the autism spectrum who has a fascination with animals. Bat's mother, a veterinarian, brings home a baby skunk that the family commits to caring for until the skunk kit can be released back into the wild. Truly a family and community event, students will receive a learning packet that families can do together, incorporating fun literacy, math and science activities that enhance the experience of reading the book and ensure that students continue to learn through the remainder of their school year.

An outstanding opportunity to build partnerships with our families and celebrate learning together, the school district is asking that regardless of each student's age, families read the book out loud together. Readtothem.org shares that, "The benefits of reading aloud are remarkable! Studies have shown that reading to children helps them to listen better and longer, build better vocabularies, understand concepts better, feel positive about both books and learning, and more. When an entire school (district) reads the same book, the buzz and excitement around the book being read increases these benefits, and there is the added joy of building community in the school family." This is not to mention the added benefit of spending real quality time together while simultaneously promoting the benefits of reading and learning!

Building on the momentum of the district's STEAM Innovate transformation, *A Boy Called Bat*, easily incorporates community and careers. The district has invited guest readers to record each chapter of the book and will post the read-aloud chapters on the school district web page at

<https://www.santarosa.k12.fl.us/>

Guest readers include experts from the Navarre Marine Science Station, Emerald Coast Animal Refuge, Green Acres Stables, Buckeye Acres Dairy, Santa Rosa Sheriff's Department Canine Unit and many more! Animal experts will share fun facts about animals including dolphins, tortoises, horses, and skunks to name just a few.

For more information, contact:

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