

The new date for the POCOC Book Club & Potluck will now take place on Friday, February 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 in the Sixth Avenue Auditorium. Rita Williams-Garcia, the author of our Middle School book selection will join us. (Please see author information below).

Reminder: The Parents of Children of Color Committee (POCOC) provides a forum for discussion on the needs and concerns of parents of children of color. Each school division hosts its own Parent of Color Children Committee for dialogue and support on common issues. Currently, the Lower and Middle school POCOC meet together every third Wednesday of the month starting at 8:15 am in the cafeteria. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 19th.

Thank you,

Rhonda Hartley & Kaiko Hayes
POCOC Co-Chairs

Attention Middle School POCOC Parents: Rita Williams-Garcia the author of our middle school book selection *One Crazy Summer* (Winner of the 2011 Scott O'Dell Award*) will be joining us for the POCOC Book Club & Potluck on Friday, February 4th @ 6:00 in the Sixth Avenue Auditorium. We are asking that everyone make an effort to have their child attend and meet the author. This is a wonderful opportunity for us and we want to extend a warm LREI welcome to Ms. Williams-Garcia. Special thanks to Margaret Andrews for arranging this visit.

Attached you will find the Book Guide for *One Crazy Summer*. Please have your child review it prior to the book club meeting.

2011 Scott O'Dell Award

The winner of the 2011 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction is *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

The summer Delphine is “eleven going on twelve,” she and her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, are sent from Brooklyn to Oakland to visit their mother, Cecile, who left the family soon after Fern was born. Beginning with the girls’ first scary but exhilarating plane ride, their summer of 1968 is a microcosm of the new directions in which the nation found itself traveling. Their mother, distrustful and secretive, has renamed herself Nzila; she sends the girls off every morning for breakfast and summer school at the Black Panthers’ People’s Center. Why does she have a printing press in her kitchen, and why does she refuse to call Fern anything but “Little Girl”? As expressed through the candid, questioning, and

take-no-prisoners voice of the spirited Delphine, Williams-Garcia's exploration of the nascent Black Power movement is always rooted in the particulars of the girls' experience. In her sturdy self-reliance, Delphine recalls the heroine of a book she has brought along for the summer—Scott O'Dell's *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Readers won't be able to forget her.

Established in 1982 by the great historical fiction writer Scott O'Dell, the annual \$5000 Award is given for a distinguished work of historical fiction for young people, published by a U. S. publisher; the setting must be South, Central, or North America, and the author must be a U.S. citizen. Since O'Dell's death, the Award has been administered by his wife, Elizabeth Hall.

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One of the POCOC community building events for the POCOC children is the bi-annual POCOC Book Club & Potluck that will take place on Friday, February 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 in the Sixth Avenue Auditorium.

On the evening of February 4th we will have our potluck dinner then the children will be split into their book clubs which will be led by teachers & parents with help from students from Elizabeth Irwin High School. We are actively seeking facilitators for each group. Middle School teacher Margaret Andrews has volunteered to lead the 5th – 8th Grade discussion and if someone knows of another teacher who would like to volunteer for the other grades, please let us know.

The Book Club reading choices are:

4's through 1st Grade: Amelia's Show and Tell Fiesta by Mimi Chapra
and
Dear Juno by Soyung Pak

2nd through 4th Grade: Bussing Brewster by Richard Michelson

5th through 8th Grade: One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

The link for the Potluck signup sheet can be found here:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AIR5oQQ0ot6fdEFFVVpTcGd1bXBJWDIRczVWMkRqSXc&hl=en&authkey=CJbWn5oO>

We look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting and the Book Club Potluck.