

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Demarest Middle School Hosts Skype Chat with Author Sara Pennypacker

Sixth graders at Demarest Middle School recently read the novel *Pax* by New York Times best selling author Sara Pennypacker. The coming of age novel chronicles the tale of a young boy and his pet fox that are separated by war, and is written as a dual narrative told from their alternating perspectives.

While reading the novel, students learned that survival, during difficult times, depends greatly on empathy, kindness, and compassion for others. In addition, an overarching theme of persistence as power was explored.

On Monday November 21st all DMS sixth graders will have the opportunity to discuss the novel with the author through a Skype conversation. During the dialogue, students will have the opportunity to ask Mrs. Pennypacker questions about character development, as well as the messages within the story. This Skype session is the final event of the Global Read Aloud Project. Students have also discussed the novel with other classes all over the country, from coast to coast, as well as Alaska.

This unique learning opportunity is presented in coordination with the Cultural Arts Committee of the Demarest Parent Teacher Organization. The event will be held from on November 21st at 9:15 in the Demarest Middle School STEM Center.