



June 2017

Dear Grade Five Families,

Welcome to Rising Tide Charter Public School! The grade five team is looking forward to getting to know each and every student in September. As part of the transition into a new middle school community, students can look forward to many grade five traditions. The beginning of the year will be filled with opportunities to meet new classmates and new teachers and to work together to take on fun challenges. Early in September, Camp Wing counselors will lead an active morning of outdoor team building activities. Later in the fall, students will have a hands on cranberry harvest experience that will bring to life the grade five exploration of our region and local traditions. Also, advisors and students will work together to plan and host a social event for grades five and six!

This summer the grade five team wants students and their families to join the teachers in the summer reading experience by reading *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. Reading a book together and talking about it helps to form a community. It not only promotes an interest in the book, but inspires students with a shared experience. *The Wild Robot* will set a theme for the year, introducing students to the guiding question, "What is my place in the community?" At the start of the school year, teachers in many classes will make connections with the book. This will be the first step in building our community and connecting subject areas that students have traditionally viewed as separate. The following questions will help guide students and their families as they discuss *The Wild Robot*.

**Family Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking about her purpose in life, Roz ponders, "Perhaps I am simply meant to help others" (page 192). How does Roz go from asking for help to being the helper? How is asking for help an act of courage? How is it a means of survival? What do you think your purpose in life might be?
2. How do nature and technology clash in the novel? How do they coexist?
3. How do the illustrations shape your reading of the story? Which illustration do you like best, and why?
4. What does *The Wild Robot* suggest about trying to find your place in a community?

On the second page is an "Organizing your Materials" list of additional materials we suggest families purchase before school to help students prepare for grade five. Since some supplies will be kept at school, it is important for items to be labeled with your child's name. Students can bring their supplies and choose a cubby during the Open House on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, or on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Your child will receive a class schedule on the first day of school.

Thank you for your cooperation and support! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rising Tide at 508-747-2620.

Sincerely,  
The Grade Five Team

## Organizing your Materials

- tissues & disinfecting wipes (*for classroom use*)
- #2 pencils
- 1 highlighter
- eraser caps
- pencil bag
- Handheld pencil sharpener
- Homework binder or folder
- 4 - 1 inch binders
- 1 - 1 ½ inch binder
- 20 - section dividers for your binders
- 2 - composition notebooks
- 1 package of dry erase markers
- 1 package of 3"x5" index cards
- graph paper
- lined paper
- Sneakers (*for Physical Education, beginning in January*)