



### **Penn Valley Unites Home and School through *One School, One Book* Family Reading Program**

Four hundred families will bring home a copy of *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate, and begin reading it with their families on Monday, January 8. During the month of January, students and families will read the book together at home while celebrating and exploring the novel at school. It's all part of a unique, national family literacy program called ***One School, One Book*** from non-profit **Read to Them** designed to strengthen the educational connection between home and school.

“Reading a common book together turns out to be a terrific way to unite a school community and increase parental involvement. Reading aloud at home ensures students come to school prepared to read and to succeed – in school and in life,” explains Read to Them Director of Programs, Bruce Coffey.

Penn Valley will join the schools and districts across North America who have undertaken this family literacy strategy. Families will read and discuss the story and the adventure of Red, the tree, at home. In school, students will answer trivia questions and engage in creative extension activities.

*One School, One Book* is the flagship program of Read to Them, a national non-profit based in Richmond, Virginia. The organization's mission is to create a culture of literacy in every community. “The secret sauce of family literacy is to create a symbiosis between home and school. When students see their book being read and shared and discussed at home *and* school, they are surrounded by the culture of literacy,” explains Read to Them Director of Programs, Bruce Coffey.

“We know about the effect *One School, One Book* can have on our students and families,” explains Mrs. Bauerle, Penn Valley's Reading Specialist, “because this is our third time participating in *One School, One Book*. We are confident that reading one great book together can ignite excitement about reading in our school community. I can't wait to start hearing and joining in the conversations *Wishtree* will spark.”

Read to Them's family literacy programs have reached over 2 million families in over 3,000 schools in all 50 states and 6 Canadian provinces. A continually growing body of research demonstrates that children who are read to at home are better prepared to read, succeed in school, and graduate.