Dear Parents,

The South Dakota Children's Book Awards encourage students in grades K-5th to read and vote for their favorite books of the year. Three children's choice awards are offered for different grade levels. The Prairie Bud Award is designed for students in grades PK-1st, the Prairie Bloom Award is designed for students in grades 2nd-3rd, and the Pasque Award is for 4th - 5th graders. All the awards encourage students to read and vote for their favorite book from a list of nominated titles. The awards are sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association, and titles are selected for their quality and potential popularity with children by South Dakota librarians and educators.

Your child can vote for South Dakota's Children's Book Awards online at school, home or in the [Name of Local Public Library] for any book they have read or had read to them. PK-3rd grade students may vote for any of the books they enjoyed reading and feel would be deserving of the Prairie Bud or Bloom awards. 4th -5th grade students may vote for any of the books they have read by ranking them on a 3-point scale. Each award is given to the book receiving the most votes from students throughout South Dakota. The reading for all nominees officially begins in the fall with each new school year.

The South Dakota Children's Book Awards has a long history of fostering a love of reading. The Prairie Pasque Award was first given in 1987 to Ivy Ruckman for her book, *Night of the Twisters*. Other winners include Phyllis Reynolds Naylor for *Shiloh*, David Pateneaude for *Someone Was Watching*, and Louis Sachar for *Holes*. The Prairie Bud Award was created by the Prairie Valley Reading Council and has been given annually since 1998. The Prairie Bud Award was first given to Patricia Rae Wolff for her book, *Toll-Bridge Troll*. Other winners include Bill Grossman for *My Little Sister Ate One Hare* and Joan Steiner for *Look-Alikes*.

Awards voting beings October 1 and concludes April 1. Winning titles are announced during National Library Week in April. A list of nominated titles for each award is attached. The books are available at our school library and the [**Name of Local Public Library**]. Please, encourage your child to help select the best children's book of the year in South Dakota by reading Prairie Award books. To cast an online ballot at home, visit the [**SDSL Ballot URL**].

If you have any questions, please, contact me at [**Your Name and Phone Number/Email**].

The Prairie Bud, Prairie Bloom & Prairie Pasque Children's Book Awards are sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association. Prairie Bud winners are determined by South Dakota pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students. Prairie Bloom winners are determined by South Dakota second and third grade students. Prairie Pasque winners are determined by South Dakota fourth and fifth grade students. Students are encouraged to read and vote for their one favorite book of the year from the master lists of titles. The books receiving the most votes from the students win the awards. A committee of educators and librarians select the books nominated for the awards.

The South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) is a statewide organization representing libraries, library employees, library trustees, and library supporters. SDLA provides leadership and educational opportunities and supports its members in meeting the challenges of providing quality library service to all South Dakotans.