

Students learn about veterans

During Sterling Grade School Library storytime during the first week of November, Principal Brennan Riffel read a book aloud and led students in grades 1-6 through an activity to teach them about the sacrifices made by our country's veterans. The children's book *America's White Table* tells the story of a girl who is learning about her uncle's service during the Vietnam War and about the sacrifices of our military personnel, including POWs (prisoners of war) and those who are MIA (missing in action).

The girl in the story places special items on a table, and each object represents something that teaches children about veterans' sacrifices. "I chose this book because it does a wonderful job of introducing students to the sacrifices made by our veterans in an age-appropriate way," explained district librarian Amy Brownlee. "For example, the empty chair at the table reminds us that many servicemen and women did not come home. The salt reminds us of the tears we shed for the people who were killed," Brownlee said. During the activity, students placed items on the table as Riffel explained their meaning.

The activity was conducted before Veteran's Day so that students could attend the community ceremony on Nov. 11 with an understanding of the importance of the event.

During the library activity, many students were able to share the names of family members of friends who are veterans. "It helped them understand and connect to the importance of Veteran's Day," Brownlee said.

