



Ponaganset High School

137 Anan Wade Road, North Scituate, RI 02857 (401) 710-7500



Mrs. Karyn Sarkis
Associate Principal

Dr. Renee Palazzo
Principal

Mrs. Amanda Grundel
Associate Principal

CONTACT: Terri Spisso: tspisso@fgschools.com
Christopher Stanley: cstanley@fgschools.com

FOSTER-GLOCESTER REGIONAL SCHOOLS ONE OF 79 ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE TO RECEIVE AN NEA BIG READ GRANT

The communities of Foster and Glocester to Read and Celebrate The Things They Carried From November 1, 2018- January 18th 2019

September 7, 2018—Foster-Glocester, RI—Foster- Glocester Regional Schools is a recipient of a grant of \$15,000 to host the NEA Big Read in the communities of Foster and Glocester. A national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Foster- Glocester Regional Schools is one of 79 nonprofit organizations to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program between November 2018 and January 2019. The NEA Big Read in Foster-Glocester will focus on *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. Activities will take place between November 1, 2018 and January 16, 2019.

"We are proud to honor our veterans for their service to our country as part of an exciting school and community partnership made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment of the Arts Big Read Grant. Because of this grant, our students will be able to work with renowned author Tim O'Brien to deepen their understanding of the Vietnam War and effective literacy practices. In addition, an evening presentation and book distribution of the *The Things They Carried* expands this unique opportunity to our local communities." – Superintendent Michael S. Barnes

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support opportunities for communities across the nation, both small and large, to take part in the NEA Big Read," said NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "This program encourages people to not only discuss a book together, but be introduced to new perspectives, discuss the issues at the forefront of our own lives, and connect with one another at events."

The NEA Big Read showcases a diverse range of contemporary titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery. The main feature of the initiative is a grants program, managed by Arts Midwest, which annually supports dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection.

Foster- Glocester Regional Schools will be partnering with the Foster and Glocester public libraries, veterans' organizations, and local businesses in both communities to present inter-generational programming surrounding *The Things They Carried*. A kick-off event with a book distribution will be held at Ponaganset High School on November 1st at 6:30pm following a candlelight vigil in connection with the hosting of the Moving Wall (a half-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial). After the vigil, free copies of the book will be distributed to community members during a reception featuring the Ponaganset High School Jazz Ensemble performing music of the Vietnam era. Festivities will culminate in January with author Tim O'Brien visiting Foster-Glocester to work with Ponaganset High School students. A free evening presentation and book signing on January 16, 2019 will be open to the public.

Mission Statement

At Ponaganset High School, we are committed to developing life-long learners in a culture of respect, excellence, and pride by empowering members of our school community to be dynamic contributors to the global society.

The Foster-Glocester Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion national origin, color or handicap in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.



Ponaganset High School

137 Anan Wade Road, North Scituate, RI 02857 (401) 710-7500



Mrs. Karyn Sarkis
Associate Principal

Dr. Renee Palazzo
Principal

Mrs. Amanda Grundel
Associate Principal

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,400 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than \$19 million to organizations nationwide. In addition, Big Read activities have reached every Congressional district in the country. Over the past eleven years, grantees have leveraged more than \$44 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 4.9 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, approximately 82,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 39,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible. For more information about the NEA Big Read, please visit arts.gov/neabigread.

The Foster-Glocester Regional school district is comprised of two schools, Ponaganset High School and Ponaganset Middle School. Foster-Glocester Regional Schools are actively working to provide students with high-quality academic education, state-of-the-art facilities, and rigorous college and career pathways designed to develop the "whole" child and provide them with a competitive edge.

*Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA.*

***Arts Midwest** promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people's lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six non-profit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years. For more information, please visit artsmidwest.org.*

###

Mission Statement

At Ponaganset High School, we are committed to developing life-long learners in a culture of respect, excellence, and pride by empowering members of our school community to be dynamic contributors to the global society.

The Foster-Glocester Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion national origin, color or handicap in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.