



September 2020

Welcome back Pasadena,

It is so wonderful to see you all in person. We have all faced our own challenges during these past historical months and managed to persevere through the darkest of days to reach this new school year. In these challenging times, social and emotional learning is vital for our students, our families and our own well being. Our book selections this year all encourage the readers to be their best selves. The diversity of the characters allow our children to see themselves in the books we read to them, thereby promoting the connection we all need during this time of social distancing.

Our first selection is *I'm Gonna Push Through!* By Jasmyn Wright and illustrated by Shannon Wright. This book repeats the mantra, "I'm gonna push through!" encouraging our children to persevere regardless of any obstacles they face. We are introduced to many trailblazers, such as Malala Yousafzai, Tyler Perry and several others, who are determined to keep going in spite of the difficulties they faced in their life. In this book, while facing the challenges of math or learning to execute a new ice skating maneuver these children push through. This book has multicultural characters as well as children who are differently abled and it encourages them to find their purpose and make a difference in the world. The book also concludes with mini biographies of diverse heroes who overcame many struggles to be successful.

We will face our own set of challenges. We will "push through" and find our way. Collectively we are learning how to navigate through and educate the children in our classes who are just as anxious as we are, but we will be there, as we always are, to "push through" and model perseverance for all who look up to us to pave the way.

As always, stay safe, educate as you know best and we will tackle these challenges together. We are Pasadena strong, it is what we do!

With gratitude,

*Karen, Jodi and Diana*