



Carol Montrond Book Club News!

By Leah Lubman, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist

Our first book of the year is [Trash](#) by Andy Mulligan. Mulligan's book has been nominated for the Rhode Island Teen Middle/High School book award. The plot takes place in an un-known third world country's trash site (a common living situation for many people all over the world). *Trash* follows the stories of three boys who have grown up living at the site and collecting scrap plastic and metal for small amounts of money. Throughout their lives they have never found anything of worth until one day, when they find an object that changes the course of their lives forever.

Our first group meeting has been offered exclusively to tenth grade. This was done purposely since this group will also be participating in a new mentoring program. The mentoring program will be run in tandem with our book group, and will provide a leadership opportunity for interested 10th grade students.

During our second meeting the 9th grade will be asked to participate by reading the book and then observing (in a fishbowl like set-up) how 10th graders conduct the group. Later in the year, the 9th graders will be asked to jointly participate in our third group meeting. Our hope is to continue this combined grade level format throughout the year and to use the Carol Montrond books as a cornerstone for our budding student mentors.

The Carol Montrond Book Clubs are a wonderful opportunity for students to build community, discover and polish their leadership abilities, reinforce literacy and public speaking skills, and develop their college resumes.

Already our first Carol Montrond Book Club title generated a lot of buzz, and I was excited to see many students who have not previously participated eagerly signing-up for our first meeting. The first meeting will be held in mid October and it will include Ms. Morey (our library Teaching Partner), Mr. Obel-Omia, our Head of School, thirteen 10th grade students, and me. Pizza will be served, and we will meet during the students' lunch period.

I am excited for the continued growth of this very special program, which is in memory of a very dear friend of the School, and look forward to sharing it with special guests in the spring.