

## *We choose Albany public schools because ...*

### **Eagle Point Caldecott club**

The students in Eagle Point Elementary School's Caldecott Book Club didn't pick the winner in this year's prestigious national competition for children's illustrators, but they had a lot of fun trying!

Reading teacher Jennifer Carey Fusco organized the club to emulate the Caldecott Book Award, chosen annually by the American Library Association.

"As a reading teacher, it is my charge to improve student's literacy skills," Mrs. Fusco said. "Instilling a love and interest in books, such as Caldecott-awarded books, helps with this goal."



**Members of Eagle Point Elementary's Caldecott Book Club (L-R): Jaime Kendrick, Creedence Cameron, Katerina Cakri, and Ceirra Falaro.**

The students began by learning about the history of the award and the man it is named after, 19<sup>th</sup>-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. They then looked at past winners and learned how to evaluate illustrations according to the ALA's guidelines.

In the middle weeks, the club learned more about parts of books, including copyright date, end pages, double-page spreads and gutters. In addition, the students discussed the different mediums – such as watercolors, acrylics, colored pencils and pastels - used by illustrators.

During this time, students also honed their evaluation skills by sharing with each other what they liked and disliked about previous winners of the award. Lastly, the students held elections to determine their favorite illustrated books.

Their winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – “Old Bear”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – “In a Blue Room”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie) – “Lincoln's Boys” and “Night of the Veggie Monster”

The ALA selected “House in the Night” as this year's winner.

Besides being fun, the club helped students become active readers, Mrs. Fusco said.

“It was rewarding to see the smiles, laughter and thoughts of the club members as they evaluated the books,” she said. “I hope the interest and evaluation skills the students learned about books will stay with them as they continue to grow as readers and learners.”