



# Island Readers & Writers

# Sally Forth!

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## A Note from Executive Director Jan Coates



Sally forth isn't a phrase you hear very often. To IRW it means to meet new opportunities with enthusiasm, vigor and confidence. And, with your support, that is just what we are doing as we enter a new year!

This promises to be another record-breaking year for IRW. We will continue to grow the number of places we visit, children we reach, and books we give away. Plans are already underway for new programs that tickle the imagination and connect kids, families, and communities. These programs will be based on our shared sense of place and an appreciation of Maine's natural and human resources.

In this newsletter you will learn more about our new school and community partners and the book-centered adventures that lie ahead. We invite you to "save the date" for our August Annual Meeting *A Summer Morning in Maine* and to meet Alison Johnson, our Program Assistant for Washington County, and Abby Bridgers, a Junior from Mount Desert Island High School, our spring semester intern. We welcome another Allison, Allison Poteet from Cape Elizabeth, to our Board of Directors, where she has quickly become a highly valued member.

Before closing I want to extend a heartfelt "shout out" to our dear friend and founding board member Sallie Findlay. Sallie has been a leading voice and force

in the development of IRW over the past ten years. We will miss her smile, humanity, intelligence, and enthusiasm for all things IRW. Rest assured we will not let her stray far, if at all.

Happy reading and thank you again for your enthusiasm and steadfast support.

*Jan Coates*



Students at Beatrice Rafferty School during IRW's first school visit to Sipayik

## We're Going Places

In the 2015-2016 academic year, IRW is venturing into two new schools!



### BEATRICE RAFFERTY SCHOOL

Beatrice Rafferty School, the Passamaquoddy school in Sipayik (also known as Pleasant Point), will receive two author visits this academic year. The first was in November 2015, when author Cynthia Lord kicked off a great inaugural program featuring her books *Rules* and *Shelter Pet Squad*. One of the many book-inspired projects involved fourth graders teaching Cynthia the Passamaquoddy words for animals commonly

found in shelters (based on characters from Cynthia's *Shelter Pet Squad* series). This spring, author Kimberly Ridley and artist Rebekah Raye will visit the school as part of the *Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact* community program.

### PRINCETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Every student counts. Every moment matters" is the motto selected by students, parents, and school staff for Princeton Elementary School. We look forward to contributing meaningful moments to Princeton's students by visiting with Cynthia Lord and reading her award-winning book *Rules* in May 2016. Mere miles away from Maine's eastern border with New Brunswick, Canada, Princeton Elementary School is the northernmost point in IRW's current geographical reach.

In addition to our work with these two new schools, we are planning to recruit two more schools in the 2016-2017 academic year. Who will be next?

## Welcome Aboard

IRW is proud of its dedicated, passionate Board of Directors and, in 2015, we added yet another incredible member. Allison Kupfer Poteet brings to the Board both experience in the non-profit sector and a contagious, positive energy.

She is a partner and Vice President of the executive search firm Nonprofit Professionals Advisory Group, and is also the co-chair of Human Capital Network, an initiative of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy.

Allison was immediately intrigued when she was first introduced to IRW, and was floored by the collective energy at the first *Summer Morning in Maine* appreciation event she attended.



She said, "I love the way IRW celebrates the joy that books bring to our lives and the way they bind us to each other and our passions. I am so honored to be a member of this Board and to play a small part in bringing IRW programs to touch more lives."

Allison lives in Cape Elizabeth with her husband Dan and two very active dogs, Coco and Zoey, and all are getting ready for the arrival of a baby girl this spring.

Don't miss out on all the IRW fun! Sign up to receive email updates on our website & follow us on Facebook to stay in the know.