
To the Toms River Community:

Read any good books lately?

We have one in mind, and we'd like to read it together.



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Toms River Regional Schools, in partnership with Ocean County Library and other community organizations, has been awarded a grant to help fund the NEA Big Read. **We invite all Toms River residents to participate in this one-read literacy campaign**, for which our book of choice is the captivating *Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel.

The post-apocalyptic novel, a bestseller and National Book Award nominee, is set in motion when a flu pandemic wipes out most of civilization. A contemporary work, *Station Eleven* blends the subjects of love and loss, pop culture, the arts, and the chaos of a natural disaster to create suspense and inspire introspection.

Besides promoting a really good book you won't want to put down, **Toms River's NEA Big Read will provide an avenue through which the town will reflect on the impact of Superstorm Sandy.** All programming will take place throughout October 2017, five years after the storm.

Station Eleven has been included on the Summer Reading List for our district high school students. OCL will soon have the book stocked at its flagship Toms River branch and other locations. Through our schools' innovative Toms River Writes program, we'll be dispersing a selected number of books to the community in creative ways, so be on the lookout! *Station Eleven* is also available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble in a variety of formats.

Express your love for a good book; your commitment to literacy; and your desire to be a part of a connected, engaged Toms River by pledging your participation in the NEA Big Read:

- **Text @7g9gk to 81010 for Big Read updates and reminders.**
- **Visit trsschools.com/Community/BigRead**
- **Follow @TRBigRead on Twitter.**

With your commitment, you'll agree to read *Station Eleven* and be a part of the discussion, and our program will offer plenty of fun ways to do so. After all, we read to know we are not alone and to learn more about others and ourselves. One of the most important tenets of this program is to read and write together, and our NEA Big Read will provide opportunities for reflecting and writing about the book, our experiences during Sandy, and any other topics that emerge. A timeline of October events will soon be posted to our NEA Big Read website.

Toms River has never seen anything like this, and we sincerely hope you will join us and our students on this discovery of reading, writing, and healing.

Sincerely,

Superintendent David M. Healy
Toms River Regional Schools



Note: *Station Eleven*, one of 28 novels selected for the 2017-2018 NEA Big Read by the National Endowment for the Arts, contains several instances of strong language and some suggestive content. The NEA Big Read is voluntary, and Toms River Regional Schools strongly urges parents and all readers aged 13+ to be aware of the novel's content prior to participation in this program.