

You're Invited: Toms River's NEA Big Read Kickoff Event

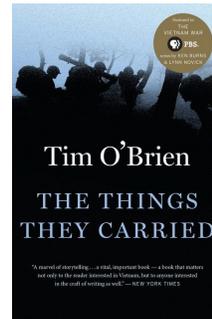
A Celebration of Literacy with a Focus on our Veterans

The Kickoff Event for Toms River's 2018-2019 [NEA Big Read](#) will be 5 - 7 p.m. Jan. 23 at East Dover Elementary School. Themed *What Do WE Carry?*, this K-5 event will feature two 30- to 45-minute book discussions for parents who've read this year's selection-- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien-- or who plan on reading it and would like to sit in. Discussions will be led by East Dover teachers Amy Naecker and Beth Pokorny.

We encourage interested K-5 parents to bring their students and children, as the event will have multiple activities in the gym including a read-a-loud of the companion novel *The Wall*; lessons on how to properly fold the American flag; mindALIGNED movement exercises; a wall dedicated to lost loved ones; STEAM writing; and more. All lessons will be led by our certified staff and high school T.E.A.M. members, who will also be on hand to supervise young children and infants.

The FREE event will also feature:

- grab and go snacks
- raffle
- camo truck parked outside
- flag presentation
- music from the Vietnam Era
- and much more!



The first 25 parents of K-5 students who RSVP to the event will receive a free copy of *The Things They Carried**. This event is open exclusively to K-5 district parents. Limit 50 participants. RSVP to JoAnn Nocera at jnocera@trschoools.com or 732-505-5840.

*Books will be sent to your child's school for pickup. A Kickoff Event raffle will have additional copies of the novel as prizes, and as part of the program Ocean County Library has stocked dozens of copies of the book for checkout.



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