



For Immediate Release: The Mirror Book Project - Providing Books About People of Color to Albuquerque Public Schools Children

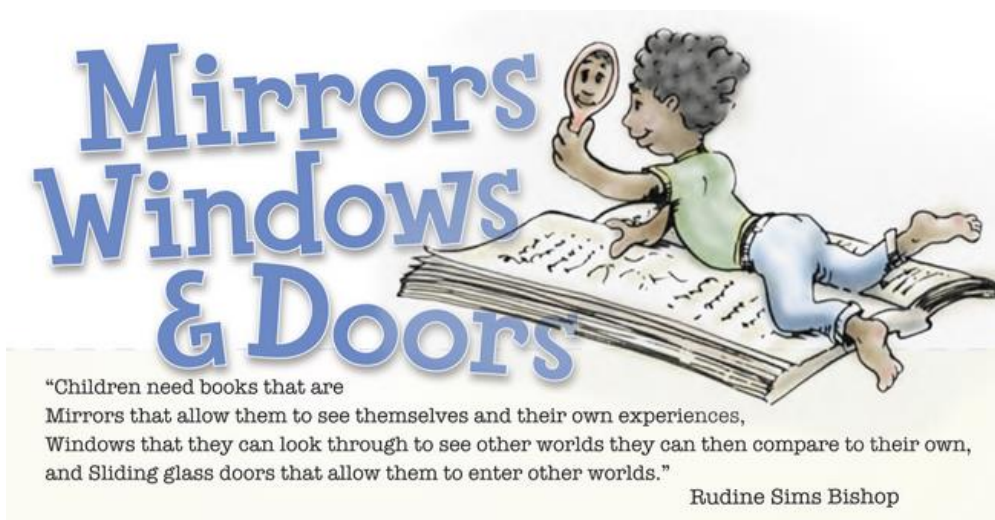
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Albuquerque, November 5, 2020. Indivisible Nob Hill (INH), a local grassroots activist organization, will soon give students at La Mesa Elementary School age-appropriate books which introduce young readers to characters with whom they can closely identify or learn from. From Rachel Altobelli, Director of Library Services and Instructional Materials, “these books will go to many students who rarely find characters like themselves in children’s literature.”

Students at the Title I school will be able to choose three books selected by Albuquerque Public Schools at a virtual book fair that their families can then pick up at the school. The books are being paid for through fundraising efforts of Indivisible Nob Hill. The group’s goal is to raise \$10,000 for the project, according to the group’s treasurer Claudia Klesert.



"La Mesa has a very diverse population, with students from all over the world. Their languages and cultures are woven together to make our beautiful community," said La Mesa Principal Aura Acabal. "One of our main goals for them is to create their own libraries at home. We want our students to acquire a love for reading. By providing them with culturally relevant texts, they are able to choose, keep and cherish their own books, enabling them to learn and grow as they become lifelong learners."

The Mirror Book Project is inspired by Rudine Sims Bishop, an Ohio State University literary scholar referred to as the "mother of multicultural children's literature." Says Ms. Bishop: "Children need books that are 'mirrors' that allow them to see themselves and their own experiences, 'windows' that they can look through to see other worlds they can compare to their own, and 'sliding glass doors' that allow them to enter other worlds."

Altobelli and her colleague, Jessica Villalobos, Senior Director of APS Language and Cultural Equity, have identified children's books that will meet their criteria. Villalobos explained that the objective is to provide age-appropriate books that reflect the "Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors" description of Professor Bishop. INH took on the project as it closely aligns with

their engagement activities, in particular supporting diversity and education in Albuquerque communities.

Donations to the project can be made to INH's The Mirror Project,

<https://indivisiblenobhill.com/inhs-the-mirror-project>
