Join us on Tuesday October 17th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. as VCPS school council hosts the first of an exciting and engaging series of talks by local author Philip Roy. The first talk will be given in two parts.

Part one will start with a discussion by Philip of how a book is constructed, an explanation of the illustration process, excerpt readings, and examples of illustrations from the *Happy the Pocket Mouse* picture bookseries. This would extend into activities for parents to share with kids at home, including colouring line drawings from the stories, and simple directions on how to create their own visual and literary characters.

Part two of the evening will include readings from *Me & Mr. Bell*, a discussion about overcoming the challenges to a greater literacy, and an emphasis on encouraging children's own interests (i.e. sports, video games, movies, dinosaurs, art, history, animals, mystical beasts, mathematics, science, etc.) and how to find reading material that relates to those interests. Philip would offer the example of ten-year-old Eddie MacDonald, from *Me & Mr. Bell,* as a way of showing how an intense interest in something can pull even the most reluctant reader into the pages of a book. In conjunction with this novel, Philip would discuss how family histories often provide parents and children with ample material for writing projects, such as journals, diaries, letters and home movies, and how out of such primary sources they can craft not only non-fictional accounts, but fictional narratives. Philip would provide an example of his own family history, as it has been fictionalized in the historical novel *Blood Brothers in Louisbourg*.

There will be a short Q & A period after Philip’s talk along with an opportunity to purchase his books if you wish. His books range from $10 to $12 each. Coffee and refreshments will be served by donation. The evening will be a fabulous opportunity to connect with your students and other VCPS families and pick up some pointers on how to encourage literacy at home.

Mr. Roy’s follow up talk will be held in January, 2018. Don’t miss either one! And as always, admission is free!