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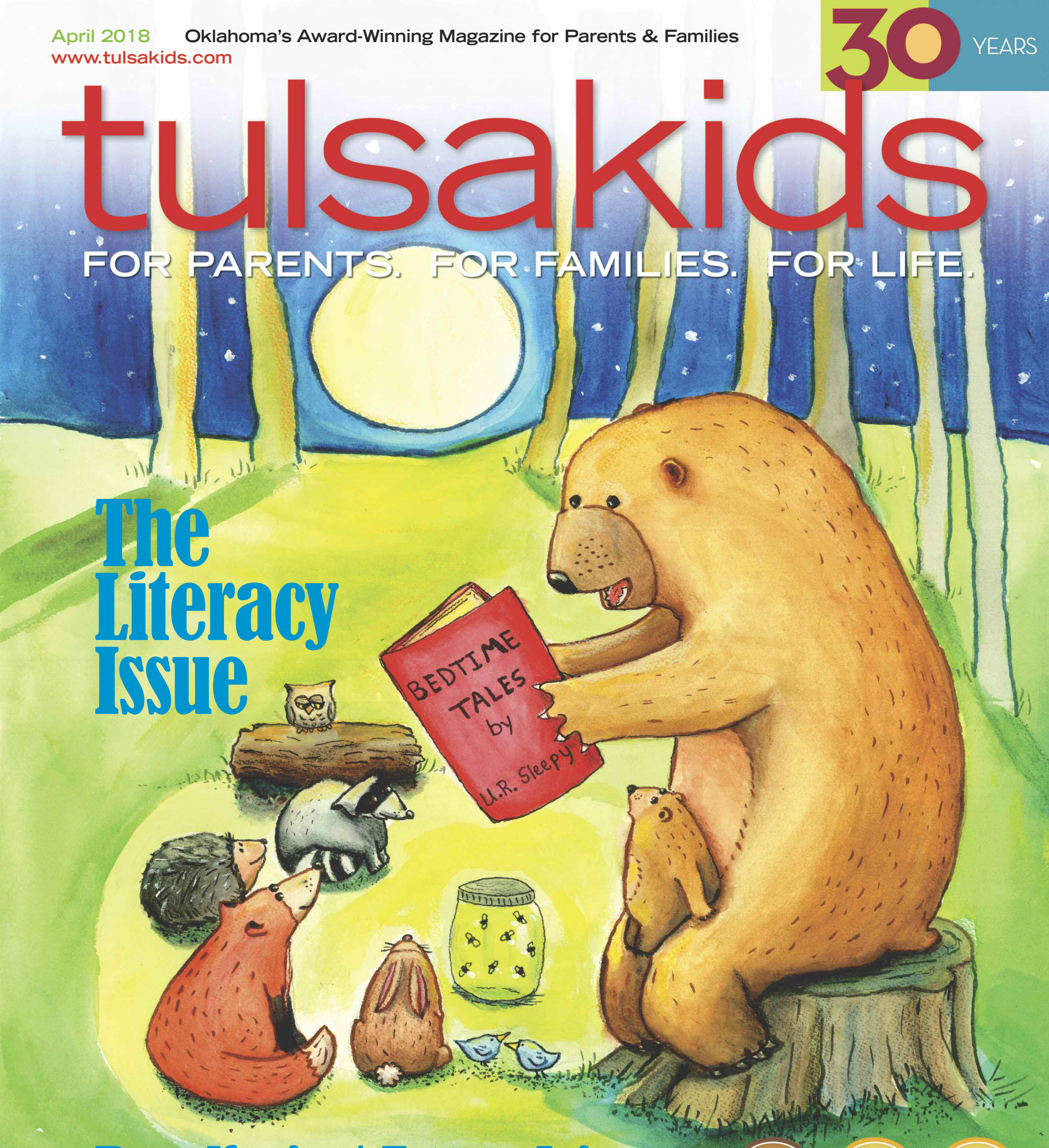
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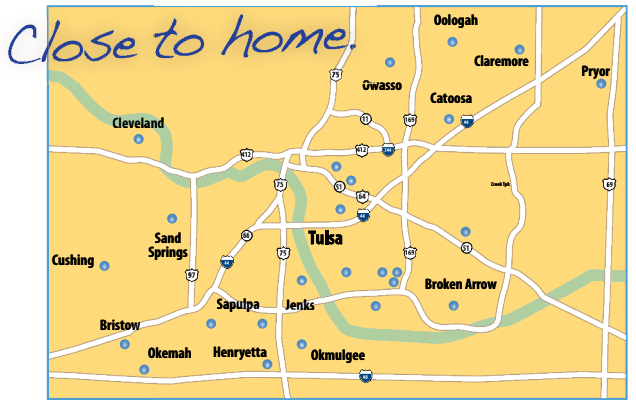
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April 2018

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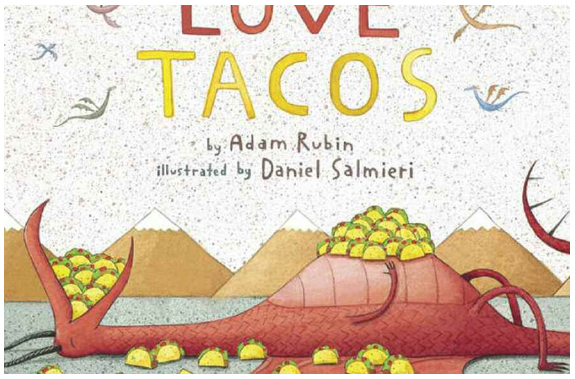
LEARNING TO READ:

DEVELOPING LITERACY SKILLS AT EVERY AGE



BY CLAIRE COMBS

18-20



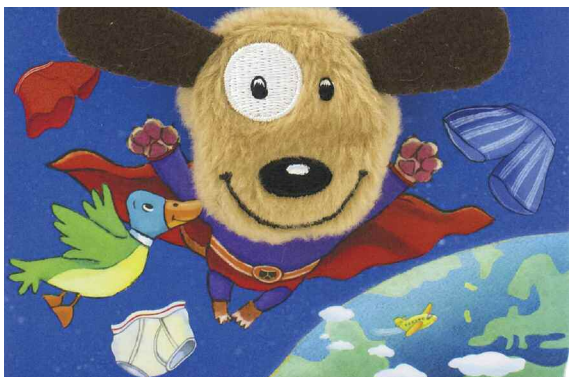
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editor's note

Books, Books and More Books

May favorite memories of childhood involve books. When I was in first grade, I used to draw Clifford, the big red dog. From there, I copied many, many book and cartoon characters. I guess that's where I began to love the way words and images go together. In second grade, I sat in the back row, and during math time, I would put whatever book I was reading inside my math book, so I could read rather than do math. I guess that's why I didn't learn to tell time until I was in fourth grade when I had to learn it to record my SRA reading times. After lunch, my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Long, would read a chapter from one of the Laura Ingalls Wilder books. I couldn't wait for that time of day.

When my kids were toddlers, we spent a lot of time at the library. In fact, going to the library could be a day-long event if we added taking a picnic lunch to the park. Our closest branch at the time was the Florence Park Library, which is now a dentist's office (I think). I loved the cozy, see-through fireplace right in the middle of the space. We would go to story time, and then load up stacks of picture books in a laundry basket. Favorite stories began to float to the top: Richard Scarry's books; Shirley Hughes' books about Alfie and his little sister Annie Rose; Eric Carle's books; the original Winnie the Pooh stories; Go, Dog, Go; The Little House; Make Way for Ducklings; Clifford, the Big Red Dog, Henry and Mudge…so many more!

In the summer, we would sometimes take the city bus downtown to the big library, or drive out to the suburbs to explore new literary territory.

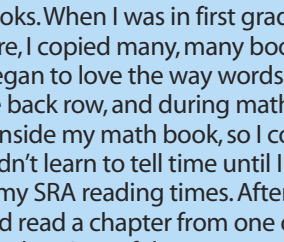
Every night my husband and I would read to our kids. Usually, we would be the ones who fell asleep first, mumbling incoherently as the books fell out of our hands.

Even when my kids learned to read, reading out loud was still part of our routine. I read two of my childhood favorites out loud to them – *Harriet the Spy* and From the *Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.* When they were middle schoolers, we would sometimes switch off reading chapters to one another. I found that when they had novels assigned to read that sometimes it would help them if they read out loud to me. (And I had the benefit of hearing some pretty good books!)

Once, when my son was reading *Hamlet* for a class, I rented Kenneth Branagh's film version for us to watch together. I loved it. My son – not so much. But it's still not a bad idea to find ways for kids to watch plays that your kids are reading in class. After all, plays are meant to be seen.

The books assigned to my kids for their high school AP classes and later college classes became my own personal reading lists, not to mention opportunities for discussion with my teens and young adults. We're still recommending books to one another.

Imagining a life at any age without books… well…it's just unimaginable!



Betty Casey, editor

If you like to read TulsaKids, you may not know that you can watch us, too! Every Thursday morning on Tulsa's Channel 8, the local ABC affiliate, join Editor Betty Casey on Good Day Tulsa for tips to plan your family's weekend and more. Watch Good Morning Oklahoma on Tuesdays for tips on timely topics and family information you'll want to know.





ON OUR COVER:

ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY TULSAKIDS EDITOR BETTY CASEY.

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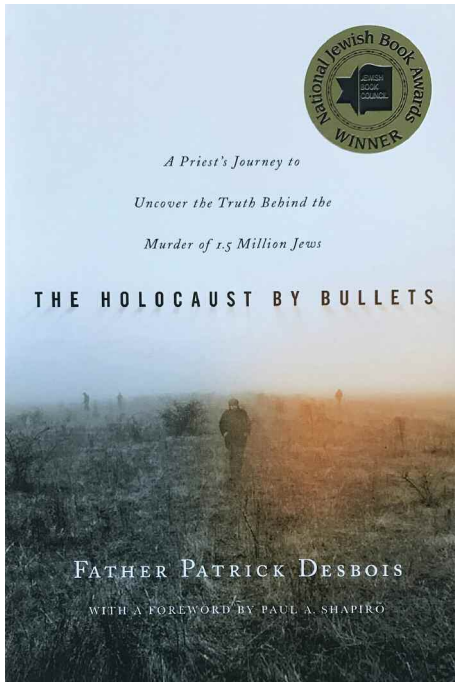
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2018 INTERFAITH HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION TO PRESENT "A VOICE OF CONSCIENCE"

In his 2008 National Jewish Book Award-winning "The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews," Father Patrick Desbois documented for the first time the murder of 1.5 million Jews in the Ukraine during World War II.



Desbois will address the topic "A Voice of Conscience" as the featured speaker for the Tulsa Council for Holocaust Education and Tulsa City-County Library's 21st Annual Yom HaShoah/Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. at Tulsa Community College Southeast Campus, VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education, 10300 E. 81st St. The public is invited to the free presentation, which is recommended for ages 12 and older.

A Catholic priest and Vatican consultant, Desbois is founder and president of Yahad-In Unum. Through this international organization, Desbois has interviewed over 5,300 eyewitnesses of Jewish and Roma executions by Nazi mobile units at over 2,100 sites in Eastern Europe. Featured in several New York Times articles and on "60 Minutes," Desbois' devotion to Holocaust and genocide research is evident in his urgency to uncover the truth. Desbois' latest book "In Broad Daylight: The Secret Procedures Behind the Holocaust by Bullets" was published earlier this year.

At the commemoration, University of Tulsa composer Joseph Rivers, J. Donald Feagin professor of music and film studies, also will perform his original musical elegy inspired by Yevgeny Yevtushenko's poem "Babi Yar." After the commemoration, Desbois will sign copies of his books "The Holocaust by Bullets" and "In Broad Daylight." Copies of the books will be available to purchase at the commemoration, courtesy of Magic City Books.

The Holocaust Commemoration is sponsored by the Tulsa Council for Holocaust Education of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Tulsa City-County Library, in cooperation with dozens of local interfaith and community organizations. Father Desbois' presentation was made possible thanks to a generous contribution from a local supporter of Holocaust education.

As in past years, the commemoration program includes an exhibit of artwork created by Tulsa area students of the Holocaust. In addition, there will be a candle lighting in memory of those who were murdered in the Holocaust. Plus, the Tulsa City-County Library will have available for checkout many Holocaust books and media.

Contact the Jewish Federation of Tulsa at 918.495.1100 for more information about the commemoration.

JENKS STUDENTS HONORED IN C-SPAN VIDEO COMPETITION

C-SPAN announced that multiple students from Jenks High School were winners in C-SPAN's national 2018 StudentCam competition.

Each year since 2006, C-SPAN partners with its local cable television providers in communities nationwide to invite middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce short documentaries about a subject of national importance. This year students addressed the theme, "The Constitution & You: Choose a provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's important to you."

The following students won second prizes and will receive $1,500 for their winning documentaries:

Matthew Murrie for his video, "Refugee of Spirit," about religious freedom and the First Amendment. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 7.

Joshua Romer for his video, "First for a Reason," about the First Amendment. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 3.

Jonathan Godfrey and Jackson Cropper for their video, "Pressed," about freedom of the press. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 15.

The following students won third prizes and will receive $750 for their winning documentaries:

Madeleine Dorst for her video, "Church Perks: A Taxing Issue," about church tax exemptions and the Establishment Clause.

Bethany Holland for her video, "Patenting the Human Genome," about the constitutionality of patenting human genes.

The following students won honorable mention prizes and will receive $250 for their winning documentaries:

Charlotte Suttee for her video, "All is Fair in Love and Hate," about free speech.

Simone Rosa and Jakob Olsen for their video, "Worth the Challenge," about gun control.

C-SPAN received a record 2,985 video submissions from over 5,700 students in 46 states and Washington, D.C. Students worked in teams or as individuals to address a wide range of public policy issues, from the freedoms of the First Amendment and the right to bear arms, to equality and the powers of Congress.

TULSA TOGETHER PLANS SPRING EVENT

Tulsa Together, an annual worship service with the mission to promote racial reconciliation, is being held on Sunday, April 29 at 6 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church. The executive committee of Tulsa Together invites all Tulsa area churches and congregations to participate in the service. Choir members are encouraged to join the community choir that is being formed for the service.

Bishop David A. Konderla of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Eastern Oklahoma will be the speaker. Churches are asked to contribute funds to support the costs associated with the service and for refreshments during the fellowship hour at 5 p.m.

Christ the King Catholic Church is located at 1520 S. Rockford. Any contributions may be made payable to Tulsa Together and sent to Rev. W.R. Casey, Jr. at P.O. Box 2095, Tulsa, OK 74101. For more information, call 918.961.7407.

continued next page

DUSTBOWL EXPERIENCE AT WOODY GUTHRIE MUSEUM

Celebrating five years since Woody Guthrie's work returned to his home state, the Woody Guthrie Center is introducing a new virtual reality experience that takes guests into the heart of the Dust Bowl.

The Dust Bowl Experience will be a new feature that gives visitors a full multi-sensory experience mimicking an approaching dust storm. While wearing a virtual-reality headset, users will be seated on a replica of a front porch – constructed with material from Dust Bowl-era houses from the Oklahoma Panhandle – to experience the approaching storm through that perspective.

"Rather than viewing the events on a flat video screen, we want for the user to feel as if he or she is actually part of the scene and fully experience the impact of this man-made ecological disaster," said Woody Guthrie Center Executive Director Deana McCloud.

With the Dust Bowl Experience, visitors will get a full multi-sensory experience of the April 14, 1935, dust storm that came to be known as Black Sunday. Users seated on a front porch will experience the sights and sounds of the western Oklahoma prairie before the horizon begins to darken and grow, the massive storm approaching until the porch, house and user are swallowed by the whirling dirt and thundering wind.

The Black Sunday dust storm was the subject of several of Guthrie's songs, including "So Long It's Been Good to Know Yuh." In addition to the devastation created by the storms, the experience of seeing the migrant workers and their plight encouraged Guthrie to become a spokesperson for the disenfranchised.

The Dust Bowl Experience virtual reality also will allow the Woody Guthrie Center to expand its exhibit on the Dust Bowl – one of the only permanent exhibits in Oklahoma on the disaster – to include more STEM-related curriculum for the more than 2,000 students who tour the Center each year for free. Students and visitors will see the effects of drought on a land that was over-farmed and poorly managed, leading to millions of tons of topsoil displaced just by the Black Sunday storm.

The feature is expected to be open during the Woody Guthrie Center's 5th Anniversary Celebration, with a special members opening event April 23 before its public opening April 24. For more information about the exhibit or the campaign, contact Deana McCloud at 918-574-2710 or at deana@woodyguthriecenter.org.





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5TH ANNUAL HEALTH ZONE KIDS (mini) TRIATHLON

HealthZone at Saint Francis



BY KILEY ROBERSON

decoding dyslexia

As a mom of two, I've seen first-hand how different children can be. My daughter is more introverted and loves anything to do with reading and art, while my son is much more outgoing and super physical. So it came as no surprise when my youngest went to preschool this year, that his learning style was going to be just a bit different from his sister's. As a parent, navigating these differences can be tough, but being on the lookout for challenges can be even tougher. While the experts say it's completely normal for children to learn at different paces, be alert for warning signs. If your young child has been struggling with language development and letter recognition for a while, what you're seeing could actually be signs of dyslexia.

"Dyslexia is a neurological language processing disorder," explains Dr. Penny Stack, founder and owner of the Dyslexia Center of Tulsa. "Dyslexia is not curable. So children with dyslexia grow up to be adults with dyslexia."

Dyslexia represents one of the most common problems affecting children and adults. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, it's estimated that 5 to 17 percent of school-age children have dyslexia, with as many as 40 percent reading below grade. But because the field of neuroscience does not have a standardized definition for dyslexia, diagnosing it— especially in children— can be tricky.



"Children are most often identified as having struggles with reading and learning around reading emerging years between first to third grade," says Dr. Stack. "The reason is because it is often the teachers that notice the struggles first. Although if you ask a parent to reflect, they will be able to identify signs at the early ages of pre-K years."

Dr. Stack says that schools and psychologists often hold off on a diagnosis of dyslexia until at least 7 years of age or older. But she believes that early detection can be key. Preschoolers can show early warning signs of dyslexia long before they actually begin reading. That's because dyslexia can affect a variety of language skills that are the building blocks for reading. Here are some possible red flags:

• Speaks like a younger child

Delayed language development is often one of the first warning signs of dyslexia. Children with delayed language development don't typically talk as much or seem to know as many words as their peers.

• Has trouble calling things by the right name

Dyslexia affects the way the brain processes language. This can make it hard to attach the correct labels to objects and symbols. Children may struggle with learning and naming numbers, colors and letters.

• Struggles with rhymes

Kids with dyslexia frequently have a hard time isolating and breaking words into individual sounds. They often can't finish words in a nursery rhyme or recognize rhyming patterns such as dog, log, hog.

• Can't seem to follow directions

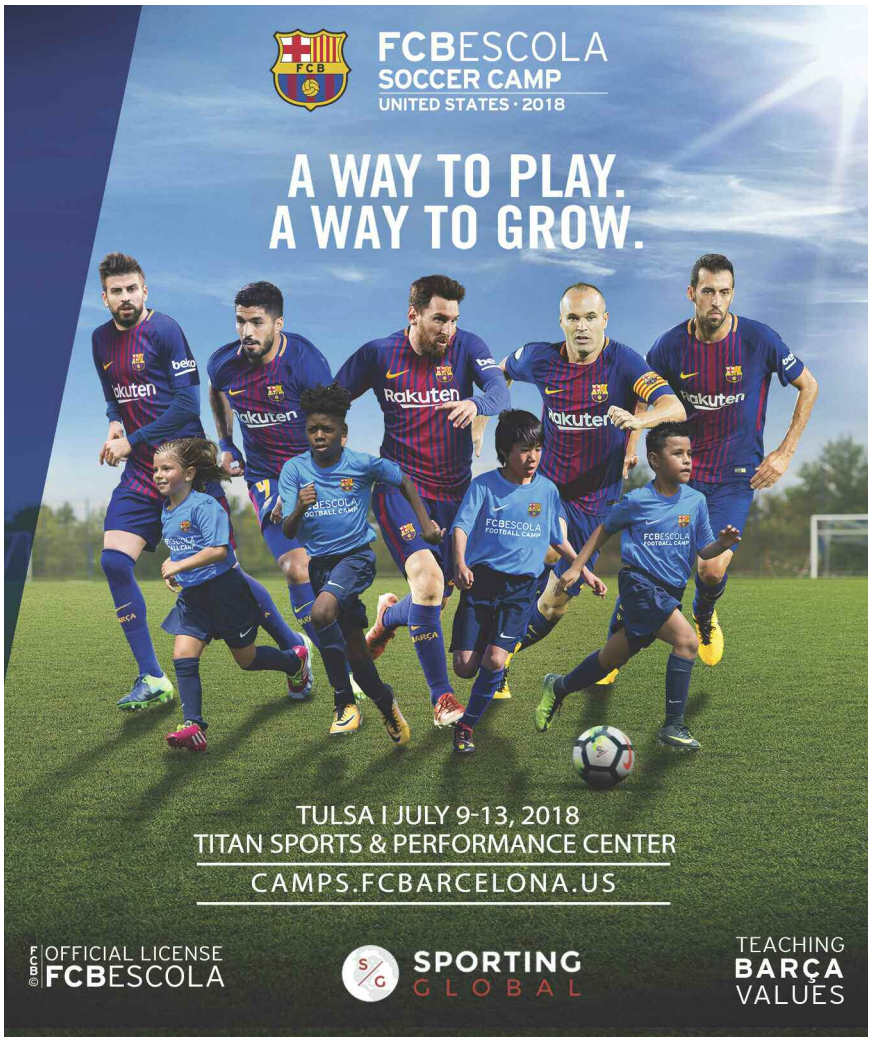
Children with dyslexia may not be able to grasp all the details in lengthy commands. They may only "hear" the first or last few words. If you ask them to get their shoes and jacket, they may only come back with one item.

It's important to remember that some of these challenges are also part of normal childhood development and shouldn't be concerning. But if you notice frequent patterns in these areas, it might be time to talk to your child's doctor.

"Trust your instinct," says Dr. Stack. "If you feel your child may have dyslexia, pursue resources for testing and treatment from a provider who understands dyslexia."

Dyslexia Resources

The Dyslexia Center of Tulsa provides free consultations - http://dyslexiatulsa.com/
The International Dyslexia Association - https://dyslexiaida.org/
Yale Center for Creativity and Dyslexia - http://dyslexia.yale.edu/



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BY MARY BETH RITCHIE

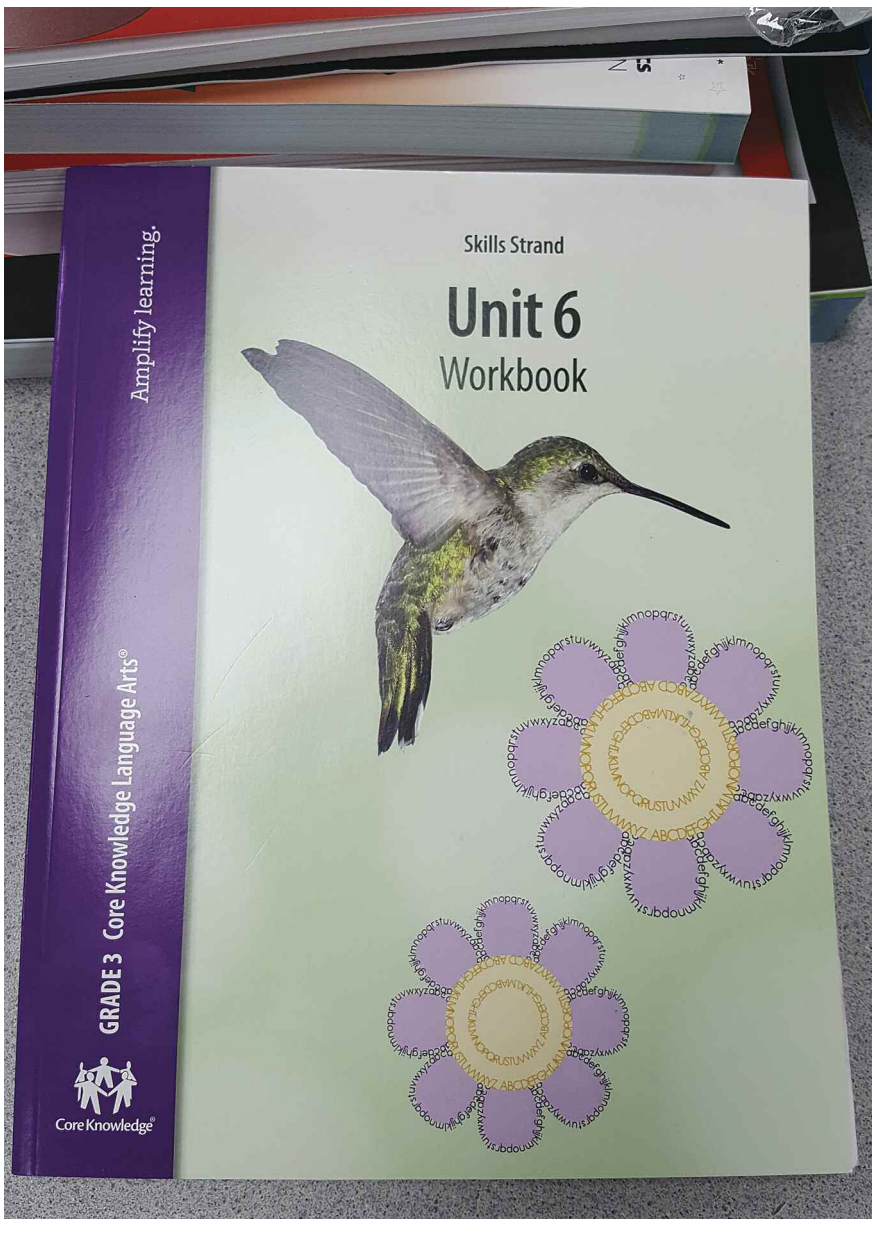
why good readers may have low reading test scores

Many Tulsa parents of school-age students are perplexed when they view their children's standardized reading test scores. They are also concerned about why their children aren't making better grades in reading. I know this, because I'm a third-grade teacher. Parents contact me about these concerns every school year. They explain to me how well the children read at home. These students may also successfully complete common online tests such as Reading Counts or Accelerated Reader. Parents insist that their children are excellent readers, and they are often correct. The child is reading at a good speed, and she can answer questions about what she reads. Why don't the test scores and grades reflect this? I'm going to attempt to answer these questions for you now.

The MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) and the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) assess some very complex reading skills. Speed and answering simple comprehension questions have very little to do with the way reading skills are assessed, so it is important to understand what skills are actually being tested in order for parents to support their children.

One of the most important reading skills that students need to master is identifying the main idea of a passage. Students are expected to distinguish between the main idea and the supporting details of a paragraph. Children need considerable practice with this before it is mastered. They are also expected to determine the main idea of a story. This is often the lesson learned or the moral of the story. This doesn't come easily to school-age chil-

> "The MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) and the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) assess some very complex reading skills. Speed and answering simple comprehension questions have very little to do with the way reading skills are assessed"



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dren. Parents could help students by reading fables together and discussing the morals. For example, the popular fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare" teaches the moral, "slow and steady wins the race."

Another extremely important skill to master is that of summarizing. Children may be given a choice of four possible summaries, and asked to choose the best. This is also a skill not easily mastered by school-age children. In fact, I've seen a number of these questions that I believe would cause many adults to struggle.

Students also must be able to compare and contrast texts. They will be given two texts to read. Often, a fiction text will be paired with a nonfiction text about the same topic. Students will be asked to make comparisons, and to contrast the two passages. They are expected to recognize how the texts are similar and different.

One skill that is often troublesome for students is determining cause and effect. Young children have difficulty determining one from the other. I try to teach my students that the cause always has to happen first. Then, they will run into a sentence like, "I got drenched, because it was raining." The cause is the rain, but it doesn't come first in the sentence. This can confuse our students. It may seem simple to adults, but it is problematic for young children.

Students are also tested on their knowledge of figurative language. Students must identify and distinguish between idioms, alliteration, hyperbole, personification, similes, metaphors and onomatopoeias.

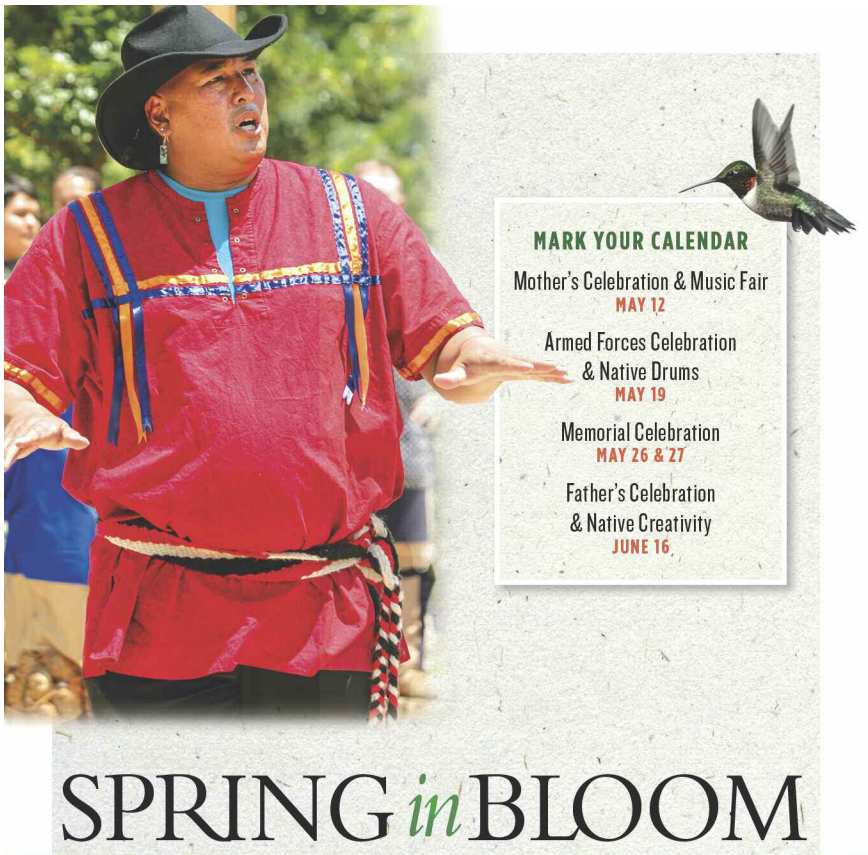
In addition, test questions will determine whether students can differentiate between different genres. This is much more complicated than determining whether a text is fiction or nonfiction. Children are expected to identify, and distinguish between realistic fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, biography, autobiography, fable, legend, myth, tall tale, fairy tale, and more.

Reading tests will check for knowledge of grammar. Students must distinguish between declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory sentences. Students don't just need to know that a noun is a person, place or thing. They need to be familiar with common nouns, proper nouns, pronouns, plural nouns, possessive nouns, and abstract nouns, for starters. Verbs are not just action words. There are also auxiliary verbs. By fifth grade, students will need to master simple, perfect, and progressive verb tenses. There are descriptive adjectives, quantitative adjectives, possessive noun adjectives, possessive pronoun adjectives, and article adjectives, to name a few. Prepositional phrases, prepositions, objects, conjunctions, and interjections are all included on third-grade tests. By fifth grade, children need to understand correlative, coordinating, and subordinating conjunctions.

Students also are tested on how well they can make inferences and draw conclusions. They need to be able to figure things out that they haven't actually been told in the material they have been given to read. This does not come naturally to our young children. Students go back to find the answer in the text. However, these answers won't be located in the text. Students must draw their own conclusions by making inferences about what was read.

There are many more reading skills being tested than I can fit into this short column. This does provide a good representation of how complex the reading skills are that our school-age children are expected to master. I hope this information helps to explain how a child may be a good reader, yet still score low on the tests being administered. This may also help to clarify how a good reader may not have the high grades that the parents are expecting.

The OSTP testing begins in April. If parents have questions about these tests, or how to help their child prepare, they should request a meeting with the child's teacher.



BY JULIE WENGER WATSON

Melanie Gillman hopes graphic novels promote understanding

Growing up, cartoonist Melanie Gillman didn't often see themselves* reflected in literature. According to Gillman, LGBT writers just weren't getting book deals back then.

"I can't think of a single example of a book that I had as a child that represented a queer or trans person," Gillman recalls.

When Gillman discovered the Internet world of webcomics, not only had they found an enjoyable pastime, they'd found a career.

"Webcomics got me really excited about reading comics," Gillman explains. "Online, no one can stop you from putting out the work you want to put out and telling the stories you want to tell. It was really when I saw those other queer people, in particular, putting out webcomics that something clicked like, 'If other people are doing this, I could do this, too.'"

For Gillman, comics' combination of art and text is the perfect medium for conveying a story.

"One of the things that really gave me a lot of love for comics initially, and to this day, is that on a visual level with a comic, you're seeing the world drawn through a particular person's perspective, and you're seeing the way they're drawing their own community around them," Gillman says. "Approaching comics for me as a queer person, drawing primarily stories about other queer people and other trans people was a chance to communicate the love that I have for my own community, and the way I see the people around me, and the people that I love. You can't quite do that in the same way in a novel."



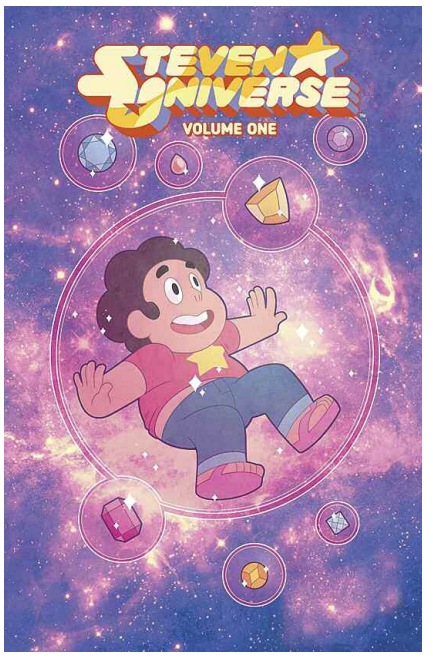
AWARD-WINNING GRAPHIC NOVELIST MELANIE GILLMAN WANTS LGBT READERS TO FIND STORIES THAT REFLECT THEM AND THAT HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THEM. PHOTO CREDIT: ADAM MURPHY

Gillman, who holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Center for Cartoon Studies in Hartford, Vermont describes themselves as a "queertoonist." They were awarded a Tulsa Artist Fellowship (TAF) in 2017. TAF provides housing, a workspace and a stipend to allow visual and literary artists to pursue their crafts.

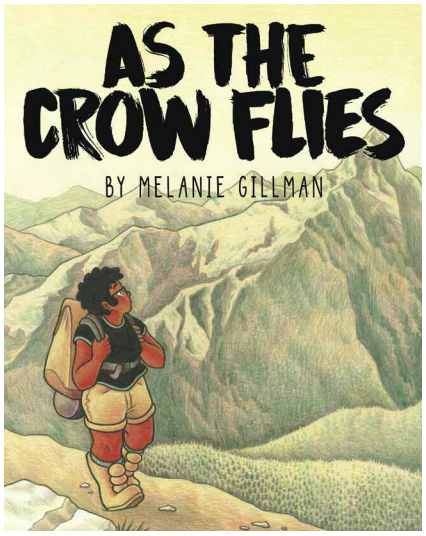
Gillman is working on Volume Two of their popular webcomic *As the Crow Flies*. The comic follows Charlie, a queer 13-year-old girl who finds herself at an all-white Christian youth backpacking camp. Volume One was nominated for the Slate of Cartoonist Studio Prize (2013), an Eisner Award (2014), and an Ignatz (2016), and won a Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators (2016.)

"I'm also working on a separate book, which is going to be an LGBT Western book, also a graphic novel. It's going to be in the same color pencil," Gillman says. "This one is a romance, so I tend to think of it for a little bit older audience than *As the Crow Flies*."

Gillman is glad their work reflects an often under- or mis-rep-



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resented community.

"A lot of young, queer people have told me they've used my comics to talk to their parents about things that they're going through, so that's something that I keep in the forefront of my mind when I'm approaching writing," Gillman says. "Not just how this is going to feel to the young LGBT readers who are coming to these works, but also if their parents, teachers, church pastors or any other adult authority figure who has some influence on their life gets a hold of this, what is it going to communicate to them? Is it going to help them understand some things a little bit better?"

For Gillman, it's important that their comics are easily accessible, too.

"It's a way for kids who are still growing up in families that don't understand, kids who wouldn't necessarily talk to their parents and say, 'Hey, will you buy some of these LGBT books for me, Mom and Dad?' If they can get those at the library, if they can get them at school, or if they can read them online, they don't necessarily have to worry about outing themselves to their family just to get access to those materials," Gillman says. "The fact that books like this are getting into libraries is hugely significant."

While Gillman's work can simply be enjoyed as a good comic, they hope it's also part of a larger conversation.

"It's a goal that I have in mind with all of the work that I do that I want to be a part of positive change. I do think that one aspect of positive change is just putting more diverse stories into the hands of readers, both so that more people have media that represents them well, and also so that people who don't come from those backgrounds and don't share those experiences have stories that can maybe teach them something, maybe expand their empathy a little bit," Gillman says. "You're always hoping what you're putting out there, at the end of the day, makes the world a more open and understanding place."

**Gillman identifies as non-binary gender (gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine) and prefers to use the gender-neutral pronouns "they" and "their" in reference to themselves. For more information on Gillman and their work, visit www.melaniegillman.com.*

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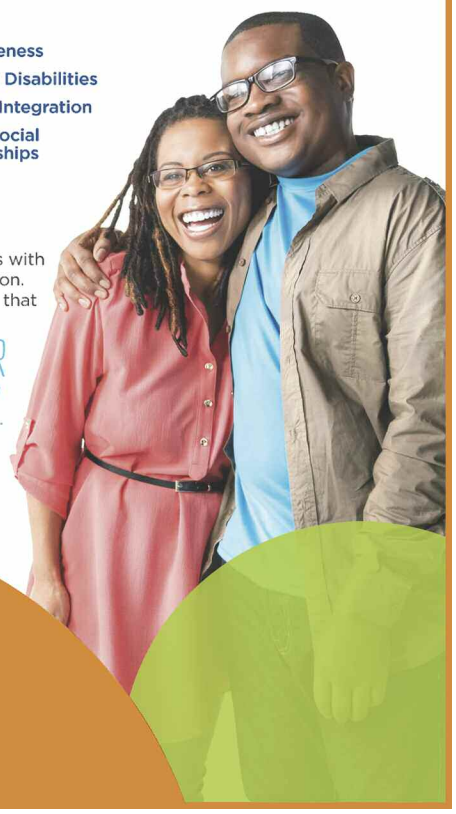
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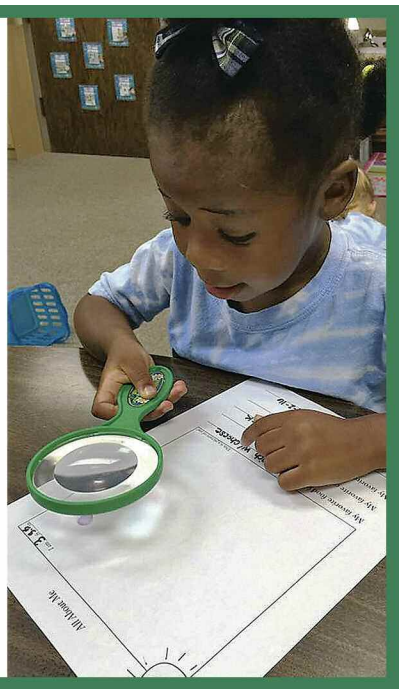
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LEARNING TO READ:

DEVELOPING LITERACY SKILLS AT EVERY AGE

BY CLAIRE COMBS

There seems to be a clear and binary distinction between adults who consider themselves to be "readers" and those who don't. Of course, when we identify ourselves this way, what we are typically talking about is the frequency with which we choose to read for entertainment as opposed to reading for information.

Regardless of which camp you align yourself with, as parents we share a common mission to help our kids develop the literacy skills they need to learn and thrive - and maybe even develop a lifelong love of reading along the way.

When experts talk about literacy, they are talking about understanding and engaging with words that have been written down. But today, educators and child development experts are thinking about specific subsets of literacy, too. Digital literacy, for example, is the ability to compose, comprehend, and evaluate information in digital forms. Visual literacy refers to interpreting and taking meaning from information presented in the form of images. "It's really understanding the art of persuasion," one teacher told me. "It's becoming aware of what you are being fed."

Building Blocks for Literacy

Children begin building literacy skills long before they ever enter a classroom, which means parents and caregivers play the most vital role in laying a strong foundation.

Allison Geary, a University of Oklahoma-Tulsa instructor in early literacy, says the very best thing an adult can do is talk to a young child. "Caregivers really become the model for language," says Geary. "For children who aren't spoken to or with, the chance to make that up later is very low."



ALLISON GEARY.

Geary says that by engaging in two-way conversations, toddlers and preschoolers also learn about pacing, reciprocity, listening and taking turns. Asking open-ended questions and introducing new ideas into a conversation can help stretch a child's

continued next page

vocabulary.

When it comes to school-age children, it is generally understood that until third grade kids are "learning to read" whereas in fourth grade children begin "reading to learn." Some educators have challenged this thinking, saying that it doesn't adequately emphasize the importance of comprehension for early readers or address the fact that older students are still facing new mechanical challenges as they read. In any case, the Center for Public Education says that if a child is not a proficient reader by the end of third grade, it can present serious challenges and decrease the likelihood for academic success.


TERESA SMITH

Reading in the Digital Age

For years, there's been debate about the impact of screen time on children's brain development. When it comes to building early literacy skills, Geary says that the science is clear: Being exposed to language on a show or app is not the same thing as engaging with another person. While she is not opposed to screen time in moderation, she says there is very little that can substitute human interaction when it comes to modeling language.

As children develop reading skills, however, tablets and e-readers can have their advantages. They allow voracious readers to load many books to one device and download new material without making a trip to the library or bookstore. Some e-readers also provide assistance with definitions when readers come across a word they don't recognize.

Teresa Smith is a literary arts teacher at the University School at the University of Tulsa. She doesn't have a problem with e-readers for her students and supports reading in whatever format her students enjoy. Smith says that if children are reading digitally, she encourages them to find an app that lets them annotate as they read, because it helps them engage with a story on a deeper level.

"It's like you're having a conversation," says Smith. "If you jot down questions, you are looking for the answers as you read. I tell [my students] that it's great to enjoy reading for pleasure, but I want you to start reading critically. I want you to really think about what you are reading. What is the author's purpose?"

Connections Between Reading and Writing

Smith has also observed that students in her classes who read more tend to excel in writing. Experts confirm that reading and writing skills are inextricably linked.

Parents should encourage young children when they express an interest in writing, which also hones those all-important fine motor skills. Keep in mind, however, that just because your little one may be ready to experiment with writing doesn't mean he or she is necessarily looking for specific instruction.

"Particularly with early elementary-aged children, it's a good idea to encourage them to write in whatever form that takes," says Geary. "If a child is constantly corrected, they can begin to see writing as an opportunity for criticism rather than a fun expression."

When children begin to write, they are learning a lot about tactile inputs and establishing patterns. This is one reason some professionals believe there is value in learning to connect letters together to form words, which is the basis for cursive writing.

University School Director Dr. Patricia Hollingsworth says that cursive is important because it is


PAT HOLLINGSWORTH

faster than printing once the writer is proficient. Writing at a faster speed allows words to flow onto the page at a pace that more closely mirrors thinking and hearing.

"With cursive you can take notes, listen, and not pick up your pencil," says Dr. Hollingsworth. "It is helpful in terms of being able to pick up on all of the conversation as it is happening."

The fact that cursive pairs left brain and right brain skills is another important advantage, according to Dr. Hollingsworth. Learning to fluenty read cursive also helps students study and understand handwritten, historically important texts.

Tips for Parents

Looking for ways to promote literacy in your own home? Here are some simple ideas you can try today.

Early Childhood

Talk to Your Child (A Lot)

Vocabulary is one of the earliest building blocks of literacy. Try narrating something you are working on like a play-by-play announcer: "First we put in the flour, then the baking soda." You can also ask questions to model conversation, even if it is initially one-sided: "Do you hear that dog barking? He sure sounds excited!"

Rhyme and Sing

"One of the primary assets [young children] have is an inclination to want to make sounds," says Geary. Singing and rhyming help babies and toddlers learn how sounds are put together. As your child gets older, it can be fun to make a game out of inventing silly songs and rhymes - just try to see who can go the longest without laughing!

Read Everything

Experts have been saying it for years: Reading to your children early and often promotes literacy. The bonding time, the joy of a good story, and the use of words and phrases that might not be a part of your everyday language - it all has a positive impact. Don't forget to think beyond the book. From board game instructions to signs at the zoo, there are plenty of everyday opportunities to read aloud.

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Get a Library Card

Anyone who lives, works, attends school, or pays taxes in Tulsa County can apply for a Tulsa City-County library card. Consider making a splash out of your library card 'signing day': Visit your local library (with required ID), have your child sign his or her very own library card, check out a book - or five - then grab an ice cream cone to celebrate.

Resist the Red Pen

When a kindergartener makes a birthday card or captions a piece of art, odds are there will be plenty of spelling errors. And that's OK. Geary says that it is perfectly normal for younger children to begin spelling based on the logic of letter sounds and that parents should rest assured that instructional learning will eventually take over. Instead, focus on the joy and confidence your children are feeling as they experiment with written communication.

3rd - 6th Grade

Try Audiobooks

Audiobooks can be a great way to help build literacy skills with early readers. Having your child read along in print while listening to an audiobook can help her understand inflections and pronunciations as she reads. Audiobooks can also be useful for kids who are ready to enjoy stories that may be beyond their reading level. On your next road-trip, consider stocking up on au-

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diobooks that everyone in the family can listen to together.

Keep Reading Material Around

Once kids experience the independence that comes from being able to read for themselves, it's important that they have the opportunity to practice as often as possible. Consider leaving a book or two in the backseat of your car. Stash a kid-friendly magazine in your bag the next time you head out to a restaurant or a dentist appointment.

6th - 8th Grade

Support Freedom of Choice

It's a good idea to let kids explore series and genres that interest them, even if they aren't exactly what you would choose. Ask your kids about their favorite books and why they like them, but be careful not to turn a discussion about a certain book or author into an all-out inquisition. If you are looking for a quick gut check on whether something is age appropriate, Common Sense Media is a good source for ratings and book summaries for parents.

Model Reading

It's well established that modeling is one of the most effective ways to influence behavior of all kinds. Of course it's important to read to your children when they are younger, but reading around your kids as they grow up is also a great idea. When your kids see you fully engrossed in a good book or passionately discussing an interesting article with a friend, they are being exposed to the enjoyment and stimulation that comes from reading for pleasure.

High School

Piggyback a Movie

From *The Fault in Our Stars to Ready Player One*, studios can be counted on to turn popular novels into films. If your teen has already read the book, consider treating him to a movie night. Afterwards, you can discuss how the story and characters on the big screen compared to the vision in his mind. And if he hasn't read the book yet? Now that the big screen version has his attention, reading the story's source material is a great way to understand background facts and nuances the film may have missed.

Consider Non-Fiction

When we think of reading for pleasure, many of us think about a great novel. But if your teens are looking for something new, you might suggest non-fiction titles on subjects they are really interested in. Royal biographies, legendary sports stories, political corruption - sometimes nothing beats the intrigue that comes from real life. Older teens may also love books by adult humorists (think Jon Stewart or Tina Fey.)

Ask a Librarian with Mrs. McCollum

On the hunt for good reading material? We asked University School's Shelly McCollum to share some new favorites that are flying off her shelves.

Early Childhood

Bob, Not Bob! by Liz Garton Scanlon and Audrey Vernick, illus. by Matthew Cordell

Preschoolers LOVE this book, which is subtitled "to be read as though you have the worst cold ever." Every time a young boy calls for Mom when he's sick, it comes out as "Bob." Cue the giggles.

Lucia the Luchadora by Cynthia Leonor Garza

With the help of her abuela, a young girl dons a Luchadora mask and a cape and proves that both girls and boys can be superheroes.

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes, illus. by Gordon C. James

This award-winning, joyfully poetic story celebrates the confidence and pride that a young boy feels after visiting the barber for a fresh haircut. Great for elementary kids, too.

K – 2nd Grade

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton

Kids will love the silly fun of this great graphic novel, the first book of the Narwhal and Jelly series.

The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid by Jeanette Winter

This picture book biography touches on themes of perseverance, effort, and creativity. The illustrations are beautiful!

3rd – 5th Grade

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

This lovely story is narrated by Red, an oak tree who has stood watch over a neighborhood for many years. A fabulous book to read with your kids; they will laugh, wonder, and ask plenty of questions.

Real Friends by Shannon Hale

What happens when your forever best friend starts acting differently and hanging out with a new group of girls? This popular graphic novel explores the ups and downs of friendship.

6th - 8th Grade

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Middle school kids are loving this adventure-filled historical novel which tells three separate stories of children and their families. A Jewish boy flees Germany in 1930. A Cuban girl embarks for the U.S. in 1994. And in 2015, a boy in Syria leaves his home searching for safety and peace. Could there be a connection?

The Time Museum by Matthew Loux

Students can't get enough of this fun graphic novel, which uses time travel to entertain and educate at the same time.

High School

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Starr struggles with her identity as she navigates between two worlds before her life is shattered when she witnesses a friend's shooting death by a police officer. Powerful.

Dreamland Burning by Jennifer Latham

Written by a local author, this book seamlessly tells the stories of two teenagers living nearly 100 years apart – one in the present and the other just before the Tulsa Race Riot. Teens have a hard time putting it down.

Landscape with Invisible Hand by M. T. Anderson

Aliens have arrived and shared their technology with humans. The world is more beautiful, work is efficient and effortless, and most diseases can now be cured - but is the Earth really better off? This is a challenging but worthwhile read that is simultaneously funny, dark, and hopeful.



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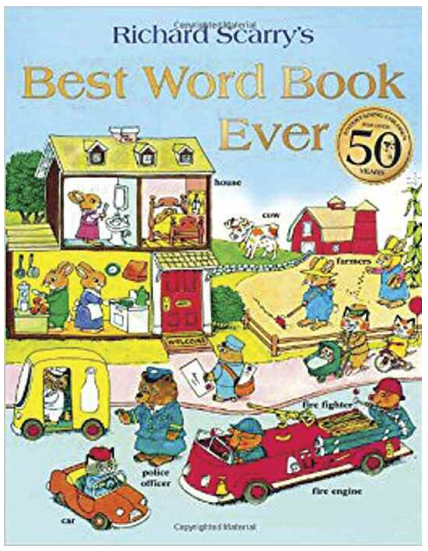
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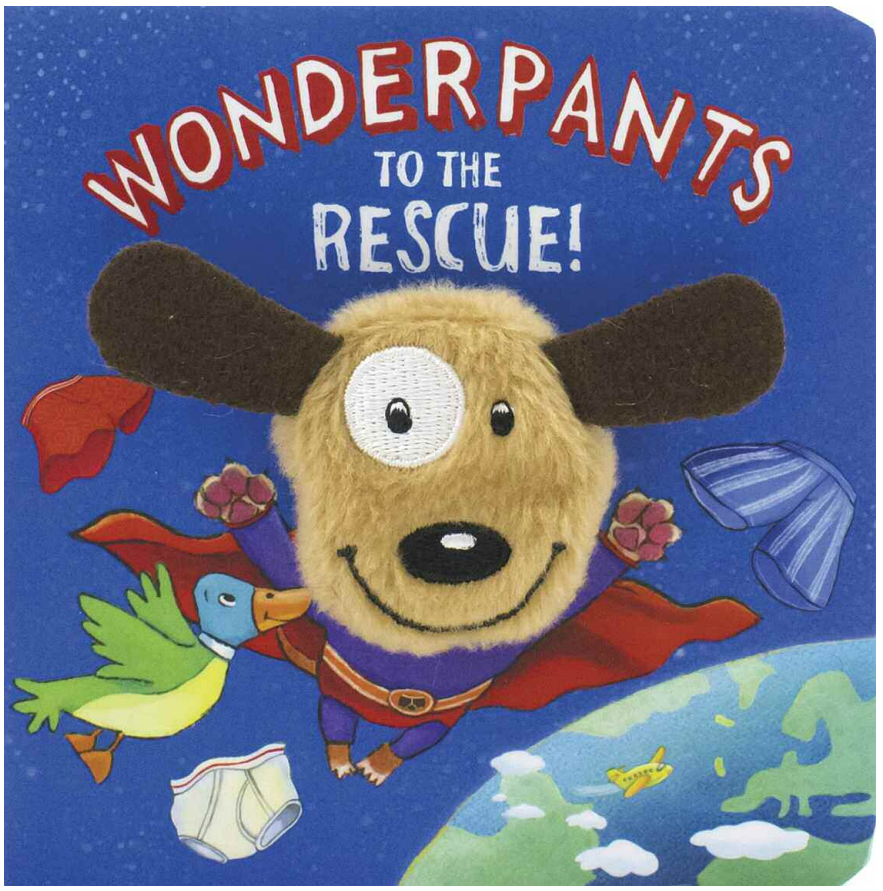
BY OUR READERS AND BLOGGERS

our readers & bloggers recommended books

Whether you have overflowing bookshelves but are always on the lookout for something new, or are at a loss for how to build a better home library for your kids, check out the following list of books and series recommended by our social media followers, writers and local professionals.

"[My grandson] loves the Sandra Boynton books! I suspect it's the flow of the words as well as the bright colored illustrations of animals. I don't know if this is Callister's favorite, but I'm hooked on the fun rhythm of the Llama books…I've saved Callister's hands-down favorite for last, "*Wonderpants to the Rescue!*" No matter what else is going on, he will stop his action for this book.



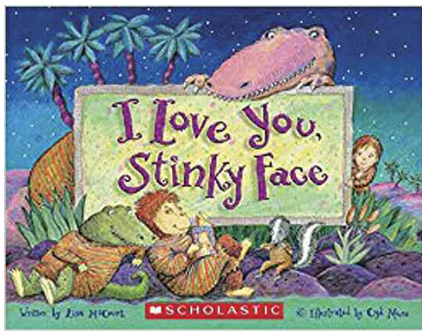


I'm pretty sure it's the dog that pops through a cutout in each page that mesmerizes him."—Diane Morrow-Kondos, Grand Life blogger.

"'*Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever*.' It's a classic! I remember going through mine over and over when I was little. I still have it, but the cover is taped…because of going through it so much. Ha! Now, my 18-month-old has the new version and loves it, too!"—Dusti J.

"I love the *Llama Llama* books, the *No David* books, the *Little House* series, Ramon books (really just about any Beverly Cleary), Judy Bloom books, Junie B. Jones books…I'll stop now. We just love books in our house!"—VaNessa B.

"I liked to read books to my kids that had fun-sounding words and lots of easy-to-animate noises. For this reason, our family really enjoyed "*Giraffes Can't Dance,*" "*I Love You Stinky Face,*" "*Click Clack Moo-Cows that Type,*" and all of the Dr. Seuss books when they were very young. These books all seemed to have great, imaginative plots and vibrant illustrations, as well."—Stephanie B.

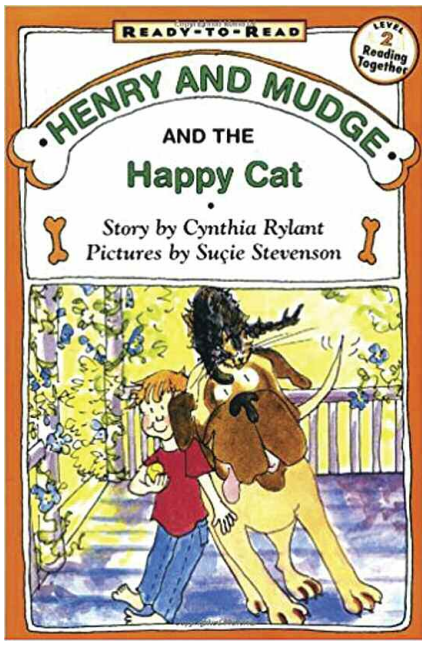


"*Ferdinand!*"—Toni L. K.

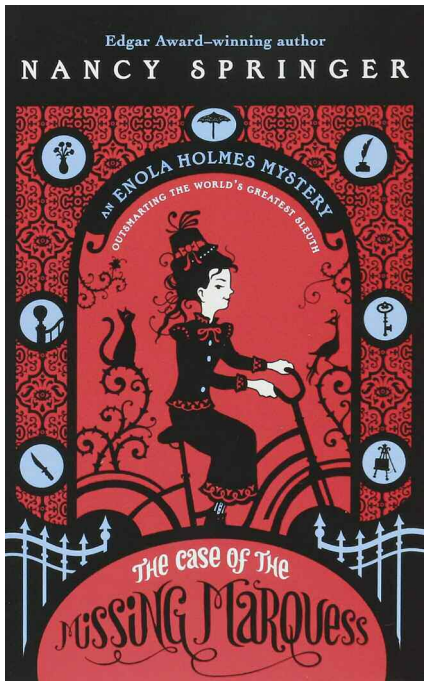
"*Little House on the Prairie* series were my fave as a child!"—Alissa S.

"Oh, you may as well ask me which of my children do I love the most. Having shelved, sold, and story-timed, for nearly 30 years, I have a long list of favorites. But one or two titles…how about if I begin with *Henry and Mudge and the Happy Cat* (#8 out of 27 other

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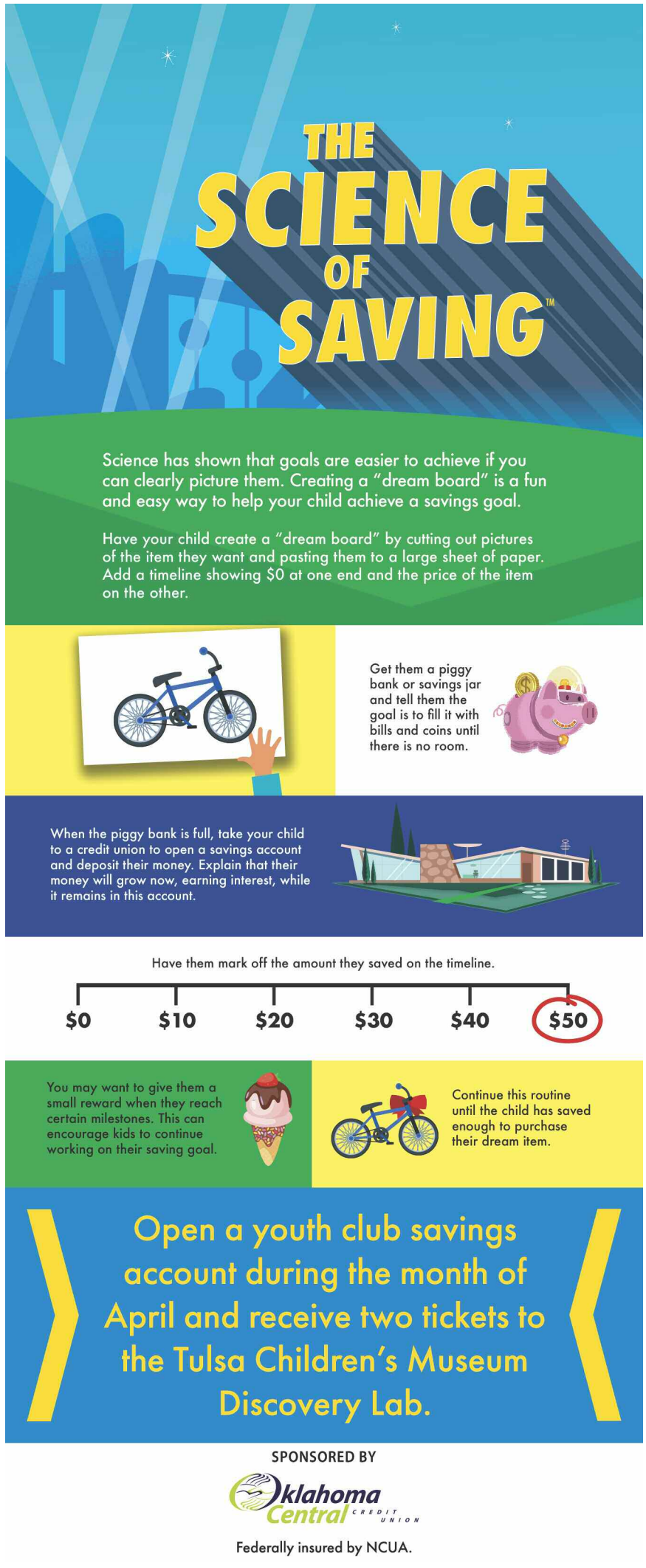
Henry and Mudge titles) by award-winning author, the brilliant and talented Cynthia Rylant. I adore nearly every one of the more than 100 titles she has penned in her decades-long career. She has board books, picture books, early readers, and was the recipient of the 1993 Newberry Award for the beautiful, *Missing May*. All of her stories capture small moments and real-life scenarios, peopled with complex yet relatable characters who are thoughtful and kind. I always recommend the Henry and Mudge series to parents with young boys, as it is sometimes difficult to find children's books which provide little boys with quiet, conscientious, and just plain Nice, male characters. I recommend *Henry and Mudge and the Happy Cat*, both because I like cats and I appreciate Ms. Rylant's gentle humor and her nuanced handling of how children cope with life's little, everyday disappointments. With succinct, simple language, she manages to capture ordinary, precious but fleeing moments; while successfully introducing children to plot development, dialog, and often odd, but identifiable, characters. There are no machines or extreme adventures. No superheroes or magic amulets. Just an ordinary people (or pigs or dogs) and in *Henry and Mudge*, a small boy named Henry, his big dog Mudge, and their loving family. (If you have a girl and are looking for a strong female character, try the spin-off series, *Anne and Snowball*, featuring Henry's cousin, Anne, and her cat, Snowball." –Sarah Munson, Children's Expert at Magic City Books



"I grew up reading *The Boxcar Children* series and Nancy Drew. Recently, I discovered the *Enola Holmes* series by Nancy Springer and am sad that I didn't get to grow up with it! Enola Holmes is Sherlock Holmes' much-younger sister; the series is well-written, with interesting imagery, and an eye-opening insight into what life might have been like for young women growing up in late-1800s England."—Tara Rittler, Spaghetti on the Wall blogger

"I love Terry Pratchett's *Wee Free Men* books and Megan Whalen Turner's *Thief of Attolia* books." –Christi T.

"For YA, I'd recommend the *Hunger Games* series!" –Alissa S.



BY NANCY A. MOORE

the Kallweits: one big, happy family

Adrienne Kallweit, and her husband, David, live outside their comfort zone, whether it's their business or their lifestyle. The Kallweits adventurous and entrepreneurial spirits guided them into establishing and growing their babysitting franchise, but as time sped on, they felt they needed to grow in other ways. This has literally come to fruition by adding four more children to their family of five. Now, they have a total of nine in their family, and they did it through the help of Oklahoma's Foster Care DHS Adoption. The Kallweit family, known lovingly to their family and friends as K-9, is a beautiful blend of two parents and seven siblings. It's been a little over a year since the families have merged into one, and now they couldn't imagine their lives any other way.



TK: When did your family become interested in being a foster care family?

Adrienne: Our business mission has revolved around keeping children safe and cared for by loving individuals and, because of that, we have experienced so many nudges directing us toward this path. But one really pivotal point was getting to know Blake, a friend of one of our biological children. We learned that he had been in and out of the DHS Foster Care system due to various family issues. Blake spent a lot of time at our house and would call often asking, "Do you need help around the farm?" just to find a way to come over. We knew that there were other kids, just like Blake, looking for a safe and loving place to land.

TK: When you decided to move forward on becoming a foster family, what did you have in mind?

Adrienne: Because of knowing Blake, we knew we wanted to immediately adopt rather than start through foster care. We wanted the opportunity to provide a forever home to children. We also wanted to help by keeping siblings together. We were matched with an adoptive sibling group after a year-and-a-half process of application, approval and then placement. "The Littles," as they were coined, came into our home first as foster placement, and then we were able to adopt after a waiting period.

TK: You have three biological kids, so adding more into the mix might seem overwhelming. What has helped with the transition?

Adrienne: From the moment we started this journey, we sat down with our three biological children to discuss if this was the right path for our family. This was a journey that the five of us took, which I think attributes to much of the success of our story. We took our oldest three through every step, reviewing profiles, meeting kids, planning the homecoming and answering "…where do we all sleep!?"

TK: Can you share any advice for others who might be considering caring for, or adopting, a foster child?

Adrienne: Just like having biological children, an adoption process takes time. We stuck to some great advice we received from a friend who recently adopted through the state of Colorado: "Stick to the goals that you have decided are best for your family and don't compromise as you go through the process." I knew what she meant soon after

continued next page

we began meeting some of the kids, as you literally want to help them all. We stuck to our goals to make sure the children we considered would fit with our family. We also had an amazing DHS worker who supported us, encouraged us and even became like family walking us through every step.

TK: What has been the most positive thing that has come from adopting four of your children from foster care?

Adrienne: A 1500-word article couldn't even begin to outline the "most positive" thing that has come from adopting The Littles. But if I was 1000 miles up looking down into this beautiful mess, what I would see is that it wasn't about us, it was about them. I see The Littles as their own beautiful tribe; they merged into our family from the minute they came home, and none of us can imagine life without each other, but I see their strength together. They will each be able to persevere through life because they have love, a safe place to land and were able to grow up in this life together.

TK: On the flip side, what has been the most difficult to adjustment with adding four more people to your family?

Adrienne: The laundry. Seriously, the laundry is insane. But I do think that it takes a special understanding of children to successfully transition to the blended family. Raising our older kids has helped equip us to handle behaviors that we might have struggled with and, in response, understand them as normal.

TK: What would your advice be to someone thinking about becoming a foster parent?

Adrienne: If you have even considered foster care or adoption, I would encourage you to take the first step and give DHS or one of the adoption agencies a call. You go through so many layers of understanding that you will know as you pass through each stage if this is something for your family. Growing our family has absolutely come with its challenges, but there hasn't been anything that God hasn't equipped us to handle. We wouldn't change it for the world.

TK: After going through the foster care system, is there one myth that comes to mind, and how might you address it?

Adrienne: Kids in the foster care system are just normal kids. They have middle school drama, need math tutoring, might not have mastered a milestone exactly on schedule. They also are gifted artists, skilled athletes or amazing inventors and just looking for someone to help untap or encourage these talents. And, like other normal kids they are full of love, even if hard to show because of the confusion or loss they may have experienced in their life. Just craving to be loved and share their love in return.

Keep your children safe!

Lock and store medications away from children.
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CAPSAT Coalition Against Prescription and Substance Abuse of Tulsa

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This is a State Targeted Response project.

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Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society's Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Tulsa Fairgrounds -Exchange Center
Sat., July 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun., July 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
$6.00 Adults
Kids 12 and under admitted free with paid adult.
Free admission for Scouts and Military in uniform
Show features Gems, Beads, Fossils, Jewelry, Crystals, Demonstrations, Fluorescent Display
Free Kids Area



http://tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/



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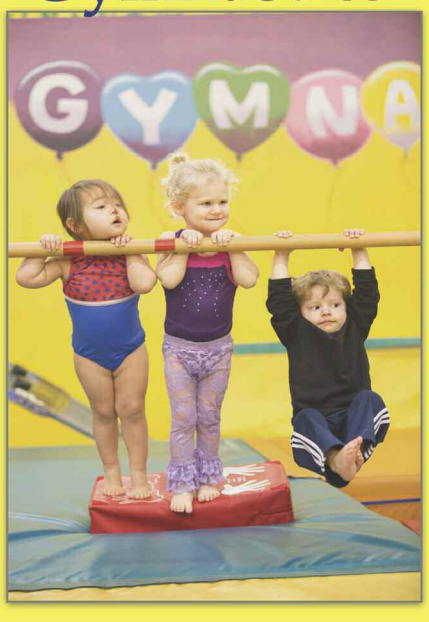
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LOVE OUR EARTH
Earth Day is April 22, but you ca celebrate all month long!
Turn to page 32 for a list of Earth Day Activities.

April 1 Sunday

SUNDAY DRAWS
Drawing is the basis for creating all art. Sunday Draws is for anyone who wants to learn to draw or to learn to draw better and have fun doing it. A teaching artist will guide participants using various drawing techniques, and different drawing tools and materials. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 1-2:30 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

April 2 Monday

CAREGIVER-CHILD YOGA
With music and movement, you and your child are bound to have fun during this short yoga practice together. Learn breathing practices and poses you can do as a family at home.
This event is free with the price of admission and is best for ages 1-6 years! Tulsa Children's Museum, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30 a.m. www.tulsachildrensmuseum.org

THE OK KARAOKE CORRAL [FREE]
The OK Karaoke Corral is a group of people ages 18 to 88 that love to sing! Members meet one hour weekly and sing renditions of various artists from the Velvets to the Village People. RSVP to bpatterson@cityoftulsa.org. Central Center in Centennial Park, 1028 E. 6th St., 12:15-1:15 p.m. www.cityoftulsa.org

OSAGE LANGUAGE CLASS [FREE]
Join the Osage Nation Language Department and learn the basics of the Osage language. For ages 10 to adult. Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 7-8 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 3 Tuesday

BIKES AND BALLS
For ages 1-5 years. This open gym time for preschoolers is a great way to socialize with other kids. Bring a riding toy. Cost is 50 cents per child/visit. This event occurs weekly on Tuesday and Thursday. Whiteside Community Center, 4009 S. Pittsburgh, 9:30-11 a.m. www.cityoftulsa.org

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BABIES & TODDLERS [FREE]
Join Ms. Shelly for fun stories, songs and activities that will help your child develop important early literacy skills. For infants to 2-year-olds and their caregivers. Find more Build A Reader Storytimes at www.tulsakids.com/storytimes. Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway, 10-10:25 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

SPACEPARK 360
What would it be like to ride carnival rides or even roller coasters in space? Find out through these virtual full-dome roller coaster simulations! Warning: May cause motion sickness. Target audience is 3 years to adult. Jenks Planetarium, 105 E. B St., 7-8 p.m. www.jenkscommunityed.com

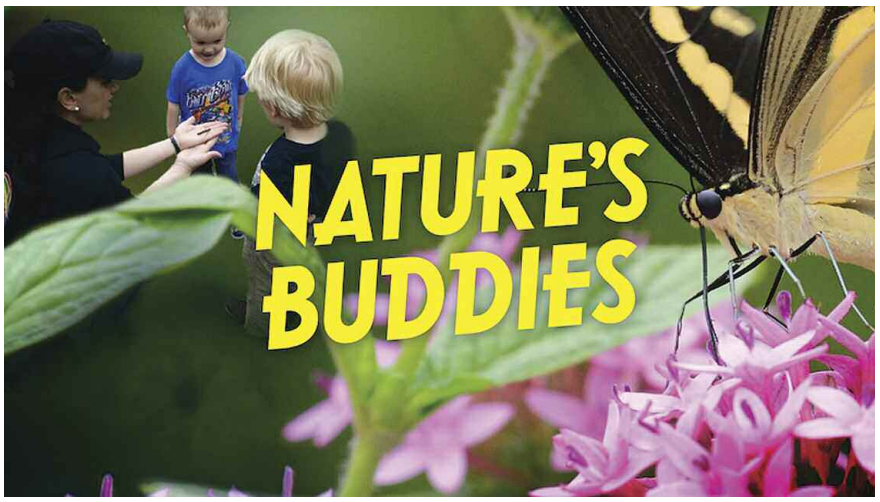
April 4 Wednesday

TINY TOTS IN TRAINING [FREE]
Toddlers (age 2-5) will engage in activities such as miniature basketball, hula-hoops, tri-cycle riding with the support of their parent(s). Case Community Center, 1050 W. Wewika Rd., Sand Springs, 10-11:30 a.m. www.sandspringsok.org

TODDLER TIME AT CHANDLER PARK
Take your little ones to Chandler Park every other Wednesday through May for a variety of fun activities including crafts, music and storytime, sensory activities, gym games, nature walks and a field trip. $2 per class. Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St., 10-11 a.m. parks.tulsacounty.org

SPEED-FRIENDING FEATURING THE NERDY GIRLS OF TULSA [FREE]
Looking to expand your real-life social network? Check out Central Li-

Nature's Buddies: Colors of Spring
6421 E 36th St. North, Tulsa
2-year-old series: Thursday Series: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. on April 5, 12, and 19
3-year-old series: Thursday Series: 11 a.m. – Noon on April 5, 12, and 19
Saturday Series: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. on April 7, 14, and 21
Learn with the Tulsa Zoo, as toddlers and caregivers discover the fireworks of color that are best seen in spring! Explore bright flowers, lively insects and birds showing off their natural beauty. You will even meet a zoo animal at each class! Cost for the series is $40, with zoo members receiving 10% off. For more information and registration at: tulsazoo.org/classes



brary's first-ever "Speed-Friending" event, complete with ice breakers, games, and a free tea and coffee bar. Speed-friending is a great way to meet new people, right here in your community! Join the Tulsa City-County Library and the Nerdy Girls of Tulsa for this exciting event for women ages 18 and older. Doors open at 6 p.m. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 6:30-8 p.m.

April 5 Thursday

HANDS-ON STORYTIME [FREE]
Busy hands, busy brain! Preschoolers learn through hands-on activities. Explore, experiment and create. Be ready to get messy! Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 10:30-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

BROKEN POT FAIRY GARDENS
Make a home for those pesky little fairies using broken crockery and found objects. Pre-register by April 2. The Basic Build Day is April 5; an optional second day is Thursday, April 12, 4:30-5:30 p.m. $10 covers both days. Reed Community Center, 4233 S. Yukon, 4:30-5:30 p.m. www.cityoftulsa.org

TULIPS AND TUNES
Singer/songwriter Annie Ellicott will be performing in the Garden and RUB food truck will have a menu of offerings for an easy alfresco dinner. Beer and wine will also be available for sale. Music starts at 6 p.m. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., 5-8 p.m. www.tulsabotanic.org

FAMILY GROUP [FREE]
This free event is open to all families in the community who have experienced the death of a loved one. Families come together to address their grief and heal their hearts. Some activities include games, group discussions, memorial activities/arts, and a build-your-own sundae bar! The Tristesse Grief Center, 2502 E. 71st St., 6-7:30 p.m. www.thegriefcenter.org

April 6 Friday

SPRING TRADERS ENCAMPMENT
Hosted by Woolaroc's Mountain Men, Wes and Roger Butcher, this camp has become a favorite for traders and re-enactors from across the country. The camp will be historically accurate, recreating what a settlement of this type would have looked like in the 1840s. Price included with admission. Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve, 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Rd., Bartlesville, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Also Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.woolaroc.org

CHILDREN'S DAY/BOOK DAY CELEBRATION: MEET THE AUTHOR OF "LOST AND FOUND CAT" [FREE]
Meet Amy Shrodes, co-author of "Lost and Found Cat," as she describes the remarkable true story of one cat's journey to be reunited with his war-torn family. Books will be available for purchasing. A book signing will follow. For all ages. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 7-8:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAWL [FREE]
This year-round monthly event features all of the galleries, studios and museums as well as the part-time galleries in various shops opening their doors to show and sell art. Tulsa Arts District, 6-9 p.m. www.thetulsaartsdistrict.org

April 7 Saturday

AQUARIUM RUN
Proceeds benefit the non-profit Aquarium's educational exhibits and programs. All race routes start and finish at the Aquarium. A half-marathon, 10K, 5K and 1-mile fun run are available and all registered runners receive a finisher medal, snacks and drinks as well as free race-day Aquarium admission. Register online at www.okaquarium.org Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, 6 a.m.-1 p.m.

BIRD WALK AT OXLEY NATURE CENTER [FREE]
An Oxley staff member will lead a bird walk on the first Saturday of every month for all ages. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them, and meet at the Nature Center. Register by emailing oxley@cityoftulsa.org or calling 918.596.9054. Oxley Nature Center, located in Mohawk Park, 8 a.m. www.oxleynaturecenter.org

SPRING ON THE FARM
Enjoy a day of family-friendly activities on The Straw Family Farm! Admission is $1 per person and covers activities such as sheep shearing, a petting farm, seed starting, and an old-fashioned egg-and-spoon race. Pony rides cost $1 more, and children can enjoy feeding the farm animals for .25 per cup. The Straw Family Farm, ½-mile west of Highway 169 and Rd EW13. Search for them on Google Maps. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. www.farmontheprairie.com

BIXBY MODEL TRAIN SHOW
All aboard for Bixby's annual Model Train Show! Hosted by the Toy Train Society, Sooner Division, this event allows you to browse various train layouts as well as buy, sell and trade trains. Children 12 and under free with paying adult. Bixby Community Center, 211 N. Cabaniss Ave., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. www.ttos-sooner.org

SPRING OPEN HOUSE AND SUMMER CAMP ENROLLMENT [FREE]
Learn what WaterWorks Art Center is all about! Staff members, Advisory Teaching Council Members and Teaching Artists will be on-hand to provide tours of the facility and to demonstrate some of the art forms taught at the center. If you'd like to enroll in WaterWorks' popular summer camp, you can do that, too. RSVP encouraged. Email lzeigler@cityoftulsa.org or call 918.596.2440. WaterWorks Art Center, 1710 Charles Page Blvd., 10 a.m. www.cityoftulsa.org

FAMILY DAY AT THE WILL ROGERS BIRTHPLACE RANCH
Enjoy a day of old-fashioned fun while working in the kitchen garden at the ranch! Learn about the purpose of a garden, what vegetables and herbs would have been planted in Will Rogers' day, and how they would have been used. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, 9501 E. 380 Rd., Oologah, 1-2 p.m. www.willrogers.com



SUPERHERO CHALLENGE

Be a superhero for Tulsa's kids by participating in the CAN Superhero Challenge on Sunday, April 8! Learn more at www.childabusenetwork.org

WAR ON THE POOR: TECHNOLOGY AND INEQUALITY [FREE]
Join Magic City Books for a powerful investigative look at data-based discrimination—and how technology affects civil and human rights and economic equity. Magic City Books, 221 E. Archer St., 2-3 p.m. www.magiccitybooks.com

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT
Enjoy a premiere dinner and date night extravaganza with the first "Murder Mystery Night: Rare and Wondrous Curiosities from the West." While enjoying dinner, guests will participate as a speakeasy patron, sleuth, or suspect, and use their investigative skills and creativity to determine who committed the crime. The event is limited to 120 players and is $50 per person. Child care provided on-site for children 4 years and older at a cost of $10 per child. Reservations can be made at nationalcowboymuseum.org/murdermystery. National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St., Oklahoma City

April 8 Sunday

CAN SUPERHERO CHALLENGE
The CAN SUPERHERO Challenge is a family-oriented event that includes an obstacle course run, superhero costumes, snacks and drinks, fun and games for all ages, and featured booths from community resources, event sponsors, and CAN's partner agencies. This event helps create awareness while raising funds to provide services to the 2,500 children seen at CAN every year. Park at Central High School, 3101 W. Edison St. From there, shuttles will transport you to POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat. 1-4 p.m. www.childabusenetwork.org/superhero-challenge

SUMMER CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES FAIR [FREE]
This is a free opportunity for Tulsa-area families to learn about local and regional summer camps, programs and activities! Union Multipurpose Activity Center, 6836 S. Mingo Rd., 2-5 p.m. www.unionps.org/summer-camps-and-activities-fair

April 9 Monday

CEILI IRISH DANCE [FREE]
Learn traditional Irish dances with this fun group! All ages are welcome. This event occurs weekly. Central Center in Centennial Park, 1028 E. 6th St., 7-8:30 p.m. www.cityoftulsa.org.

April 10 Tuesday

MINI MASTERS: FIVE SENSES IN ART
Children ages 3-6 can explore the five senses as they investigate the galleries and gardens of Gilcrease Museum using sight, sound, hearing, taste and touch. Children will learn to look at the world in new ways, which will inspire their art creations. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 12-1 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

FINANCIAL FITNESS: CREATING A BUDGET [FREE]
Does the thought of making a budget break you out in hives? Does your savings account have more dust than dollars in it? Join local experts for a free informative workshop on creating a budget, setting aside money and reaching your financial goals. For adults and teens. Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave., 6:30-7:15 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 11 Wednesday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BILINGUAL/CUENTOS BILINGÜES [FREE]
Enjoy stories, songs and activities in English and Spanish. / Cuentos, canciones y actividades en inglés y español. Kendall-Whittier Library, 21 S. Lewis, 10-10:45 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

TOMMY TERRIFIC'S WACKY MAGIC: JAZZ PIONEER LOUIS ARMSTRONG [FREE]
Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day with magic tricks and music featuring jazz pioneer Louis Armstrong. This very interactive show is great educational entertainment for children of all ages. Throughout the show, Tommy Terrific will explore Armstrong's fascinating life and numerous accomplishments. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge, 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org



Let's go fly a kite! Tulsa Botanic Garden is hosting its annual Kites at the Garden event on Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Join members of Tulsa Wind Riders Kite Club for this fun day at the Garden! Bring your own kite as guests decorate the skies around the lake, or make your own kite between 1 and 3 p.m. (Small fee may apply for kite-making). Photo credit: Jason McCaleb

April 12 Thursday

HOMESCHOOL DAY AT THE OKLAHOMA AQUARIUM
The Oklahoma Aquarium features quarterly homeschool days. These are days when homeschool students and teachers can enter at a discounted rate. There will also be information and activities in the Great Hall from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.okaquarium.org

COMMUNITY HELPERS FAIR [FREE]
Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fire fighter or an emergency medical technician? Play fun games, make crafts and visit with some of East Tulsa's community helpers. Learn more about the important work they do to make our neighborhoods safer, healthier and happier places. For all ages. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 4-6 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

KIDS CONNECTIONS [FREE]
This social group is designed for children (grades K-5) on the autism spectrum. Kids Connections meets on the second Thursday of each month from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the TARC office, 2516 E. 71st St., Suite A, Tulsa. For more information and to enroll, call Sherilyn or Steve at 918-582-8272. www.ddadvocacy.net

COLOR WALK
See how many colors your family can find as you explore the Garden and see what's blooming. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., 5-8 p.m. www.tulsabotanic.org

April 13 Friday

MUSEUM BABIES
Museum Babies is designed to nurture the needs of both parent and infant/toddler. Parents will enjoy a casual experience in the galleries, learning about the art of Gilcrease Museum, then it's "baby time" with activities to stimulate the five senses and refreshments. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.gilcrease.org

SPRINGFEST GARDEN MARKET [FREE]
Kick off spring at SpringFest hosted by the Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park! There will be a large variety of plants, gardening information, garden art, craft vendors, a kid's zone, and food and fun for the whole family. Local plant nurseries will offer the newest and best plant selections for sale while the popular Linnaeus Teaching Garden plant tent will be full of plants for sale as well. Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave., additional date: Saturday, April 14. www.tulsagardencenter.com

BATTLE OF THE BANDS BENEFITTING THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA
This year's Battle of the Bands features up-and-coming acts, varying in genre from rock to hip hop, and headliner Henna Roso. The acts will compete in the categories of bands and singer-songwriters, with a People's Choice and a Judge's Choice Award in each category. Audience members can vote for their favorite act with a one-dollar donation to the food bank. One dollar = one vote = four meals to people facing food insecurity. Cain's Ballroom, 423 N. Main St., 6-10:30 p.m. www.cainsballroom.com

April 14 Saturday

SECOND SATURDAY AT PHILBROOK [FREE]
Free. Family. Fun. Bring the whole family for Philbrook Second Saturdays. Free admission all day and a variety of events and hands-on activities. Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. www.philbrook.org

LIFESKILLS NO. 3: GIVING BACK [FREE]
Giving back is a great life skill. Use old T-shirts to make dog toys for the Glenpool Animal Shelter. Supplies are provided. Call 918-549-7323 to register. For ages 10-18. Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St., 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 15 Sunday

FUNDAY SUNDAY [FREE]
Children and adults alike can enjoy an afternoon of exhibition-inspired activities, artist-led studio projects, museum exhibitions and interactive spaces. Special activities from Noon to 4:00 pm, with free admission all day. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 12-4 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

CANNED: DO WE TRUST OUR FOOD? [FREE]
Acclaimed author Anna Zeide tells the story of the canning industry, taking listeners on a journey to understand how food industry leaders leveraged the powers of science, marketing, and politics to win over a reluctant public, even as consumers resisted at every turn. Congregation B'Nai Emunah, 1719 S. Owasso Ave., 7-8 p.m. www.magiccitybooks.com

RHEA LANA'S OF MIDTOWN: SPRING/SUMMER 2018 [FREE]
Kids are expensive and life is hectic! Rhea Lana's of Midtown Tulsa is the answer for busy and savvy moms like you. Shop hundreds of families at once and save 60-90% off retail prices. This sale lasts from April 15-April 19. Rhea Lana's of Midtown Tulsa, 5321 S. Sheridan Rd., midtowntulsa.rhealana.com

April 16 Monday

SENSORY FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS
Let your little scientists explore their senses! Listen to a science-themed story before experimenting on your own. Tulsa Children's Museum, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30 a.m. www.tulsachildrensmuseum.org

REVITALIZE YOUR LIFE WITH FENG SHUI [FREE]
Learn how feng shui can help increase abundance, improve relationships and bolster career success. Join Tommi Cox-Phipps of Feng Shui Now as she explains the principles of feng shui and leads participants through exercises designed to help stimulate positive life changes. For adults and teens. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 17 Tuesday

STEAM PROGRAM: DIY FIDGET SPINNER [FREE]
Learn how to construct your very own fidget spinner out of household supplies. For ages 10-12. Mar-

tin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 3-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

IDEA BOX: THE COSMOS—PLANETARY MAKE AND TAKE [FREE]
Construct the solar system of your dreams through this creative, hands-on, make-and-take program. Tweens, teens and adults are welcome! Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

April 18 Wednesday

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY
Chow down at Guthrie Green every Wednesday for lunch! Live music, amazing food trucks, and fresh air – what could be better?? Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St., 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. www.guthriegreen.com

STOP MOTION ANIMATION [FREE]
The Digital Literacy Lab and Maker Space are joining forces to bring you a Stop Motion Animation class! Design, construct and animate your own mini movie. For ages 12-18. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 4-5 p.m.

April 19 Thursday

BABY & ME MATINEE: "THE PROPOSAL" [FREE]
Moms, dads, caregivers! Relax and enjoy a movie just for you without worrying about your baby's noise or movement disrupting other moviegoers. The lights are dimmed and the sound volume is down. "The Proposal" (PG-13) is the featured film. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

HARDESTY SPILLED INK: TEEN CREATIVE WRITING GROUP [FREE]
Develop your craft through writing exercises! Come with your own writings to share with the group, or just come to socialize and get to know other writers. All methods of storytelling are welcome. For ages 10-18. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 6-7 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 20 Friday

ANNUAL BOOK SALE [FREE]
The Friends of the Helmerich Library's annual book sale features thousands of gently used books and media. Get quality and quantity at great prices while supporting the library. For all ages. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Additional day Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

YOUR NAPPY ROOTS: A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR AND BLACK GIRL MAGIC [FREE]
African-American hair is a multimillion-dollar industry. African-American women continue to embrace their nappy roots with more and more freedom to wear hair in various styles, colors and textures. Join the African-American Resource Center as we discuss the many ways to celebrate being happy to be nappy. Topics include entrepreneurship, social status, standards of beauty and positive self-image regarding "Black Girl Magic." For teens and adults. Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust. Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., 6-8:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 21 Saturday

HERBAL AFFAIR & FESTIVAL [FREE]
Get garden-ready at Sand Springs' Annual Herbal Affair & Festival! More than 100 vendors will be selling herbs, perennials, natives and heirlooms, gardening supplies, décor and much more. Live music and great food complete this fun-filled Saturday!
Downtown Sand Springs, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. www.sandspringsok.org

FREE FAMILY FUN FAIR [FREE]
Celebrate Week of the Young Child with the Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children. There will be games, activities, giveaways, immunizations, health screenings and more. TCC West Campus, 7505 W. 41st St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. www.okaeyc.org

IMAGINATION DAYS AT AHHA [FREE]
Learn about the art of our time and experience it firsthand with storytelling, music, dance, and hands-on "make and take" art projects.
AHHA Tulsa, 101 E. Archer St., 12-5 p.m. www.ahhatulsa.org

LAFORTUNE BLAST FROM THE PAST CARNIVAL [FREE]
This is an old-fashioned indoor carnival for all ages! Admission is free; carnival games cost 25 cents each. LaFortune Park Community Center, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., 3-6 p.m. parks.tulsacounty.org

April 22 Sunday

HAPPY EARTH DAY! SEE OUR SIDEBAR ON EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES OCCURRING ALL MONTH LONG!

April 23 Monday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY [FREE]
Bring the whole family for this 0-to-5 storytime! There's something for everyone – simple songs and books for the little ones, more interactive stories and activities for your older children. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge, 10:30-11 a.m. This event occurs weekly. Find more storytime events at www.tulsakids.com/storytimes. www.tulsalibrary.org

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC [FREE]
This fun program is all about music and movement. Shake, shimmy and dance your twinkle toes to the bebop boogie with Ms. Julia and Ms. Maureen. For preschoolers and toddlers. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 11 a.m. This event occurs weekly. www.tulsalibrary.org

STEAM WORKSHOP [FREE]
Homeschoolers, this program is for you! Enjoy STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) activities for ages 5-12. Class size is limited. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 2-3 p.m.

April 24 Tuesday

TEEN LIFE SKILLS: GET THAT SUMMER JOB! [FREE]
Learn what it takes to get the best summer job. Learn about interviewing skills, appropriate dress and resources to locate the best job openings. For ages 15-20. Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl., 4-5 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

April 25 Wednesday

ADULT BOOK CLUB: COFFEE CHAT & BOOKS [FREE]
Explore the world of coffee in both fiction and nonfiction contemporary selections. Light snacks are provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Helmerich Library. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., 12:15-1:15 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

IDEA BOX: THE COSMOS—SPACE VR [FREE]
Try your hand at virtual reality technology while exploring space. Space VR is all about exploration. There's no action, shooting or explosions, just sightseeing, discovery and relaxation on an epic scale. Calming, wondrous and adventurous! Limited spots are available; registration is required. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For ages 10 to adult. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 1-2:30 p.m.

April 26 Thursday

CODING FOR KIDS AND TEENS [FREE]
Learning to code can be intimidating. Join us as we learn to code using JavaScript and HTML. Class size is limited. For ages 5-18. Charles Page Library, 551 E. 4th St., Sand Springs, 3:30-4:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

INTRO TO SCREEN PRINTING FOR TEENS [FREE]
Learn the basics of stencil screen printing and print your own book bag. All supplies are provided. For ages 12-18. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 4-5 p.m.

MOMS AND DADS SUPPORT GROUP [FREE]
The mission of this long-standing support group for parents of children with developmental disabilities is to nurture and support families, encourage positive strategies in dealing with challenges, and share in the joy of raising children. TARC Office, 2516 E. 71st St., Suite A., 7-9 p.m. www.ddadvocacy.net

April 27 Friday

THEATRE GUILD SHOWCASE
Six local theatre groups combine their most talented people for a night of entertainment, food and fun. Admission is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted. Proceeds go to the new Tulsa Theatre Guild, supporting local community theatres. Call for reservations, 918.596.1444. Central Center in Centennial Park, 1028 E. 6th St., 7-9 p.m. www.cityoftulsa.org

April 28 Saturday

MARCH FOR BABIES
March for Babies is a walk to raised awareness and funds to help lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies. Contact Jenny Thai at jthai@marchforbabies.org. University of Tulsa, 800 S. Tucker Dr., 9-11 a.m. www.marchforbabies.org

STEM SUMMIT AT NEIGHBORS ALONG THE LINE
Join Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance for a day of hands-on fun with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)! In addition to STEM activities, there will also be networking opportunities with college and career representatives and lunch. All K-12 students and their families are welcome. Neighbors Along the Line, 5000 Charles Page Blvd., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. www.tulsastem.org

ZOO INSIDER: POLLINATORS
Teenagers can learn how appearances can bee deceiving as they explore the use of UV in the plant-pollinator relationship. Flutter over to the zoo's monarch way station and get up close and personal with Oklahoma's diverse variety of native butterflies. Middle and high school students 13 to 18 years old are welcome to attend. Cost is $25 per class. More information and registration at: tulsazoo.org/classes. Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., 1-4 p.m.

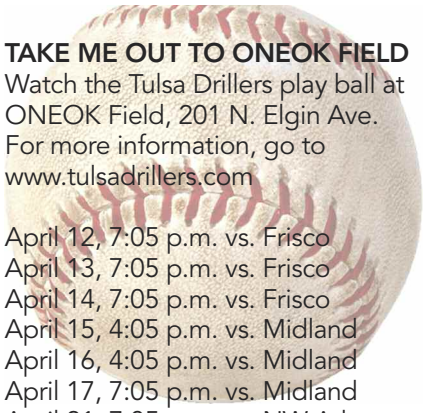
FAMILY SLEEPOVER AT THE NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM
Families are invited to explore the mysteries from the vault at the Museum's first family sleepover. Each child makes a craft, gets a button, T-shirt, flashlight, and miner's helmet. Bring a treasured object from home for "show and tell" and watch the film, Night at the Museum before enjoying a bedtime story, Another Night at the Museum. An evening and morning snack are provided. Reservations can be made at nationalcowboymuseum.org/sleepover. National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St., Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.-8:30 a.m. www.nationalcowboymuseum.org

April 29 Sunday

A WALK FOR HYPOTONIA: ONE INCHSTONE AT A TIME
Hypotonia is a medical term used to describe decreased muscle tone. It is not the same as muscle weakness. There is no national foundation for Hypotonia and little-to-no support groups. All proceeds will be donated to the Tulsa Sunshine Center. LaFortune Park Southwest Shelter, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., 12-2 p.m. hypotoniaaware.weebly.com

April 30 Monday

DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS/CHILDREN'S DAY: CELEBRATE CHILDREN AND BOOKS WITH US! [FREE]
Día de los Niños/Children's Day is a celebration of children and families that encourages the love of reading in all languages and cultures. Enjoy storytime, crafts and games. Bring the whole family to celebrate Día! Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 3-4:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org



TAKE ME OUT TO ONEOK FIELD
Watch the Tulsa Drillers play ball at ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave. For more information, go to www.tulsadrillers.com

April 12, 7:05 p.m. vs. Frisco
April 13, 7:05 p.m. vs. Frisco
April 14, 7:05 p.m. vs. Frisco
April 15, 4:05 p.m. vs. Midland
April 16, 4:05 p.m. vs. Midland
April 17, 7:05 p.m. vs. Midland
April 21, 7:05 p.m. vs. NW Arkansas
April 22, 1:05 p.m. vs. NW Arkansas
April 27, 7:05 p.m. vs. NW Arkansas
April 30, 11:05 a.m. vs. NW Arkansas.

Plus Tulsa Roughnecks FC will play soccer against Portland Timbers 2 on Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m. at ONEOK Field! Spectators can enjoy $1 beer, soda and hot dogs.

LOVE OUR EARTH
Earth Day is April 22, but you can celebrate all month long!

HOW DOES YOUR (MINI) GARDEN GROW? [FREE]
When: Tuesday, April 3, 4-5 p.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Celebrate Earth Day early by making a small, living terrarium. Supplies are limited and registration is required. Call 918-549-7323 to register. For sixth- through 12th-graders. www.tulsalibrary.org

ECOLEARN AT THE LIBRARY: CARING FOR OUR NATURAL WORLD [FREE]
When: Saturday, April 7, 1-2 p.m. (grades K-2); Saturday, April 21 and 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m. (grades K-2); Saturday, April 7, 2-3 p.m. (grades 3-5); Saturday, April 21 and 28, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (grades 3-5)
Where: Nathan Hale Library, 6038 E. 23rd St.
Children in kindergarten through second-grade will learn about the world with hands-on activities and lessons on food, animals, ecosystems, water, waste and weather. www.tulsalibrary.org

EARTH DAY LEARN & CRAFT: DRAGONFLY MAGNETS [FREE]
When: Thursday, April 12, 4-4:45 p.m.
Where: Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl.
Gear up for Earth Day and learn about the benefits for humans to work to keep our water clean and unpolluted. Join the City of Tulsa's Stormwater Department for an enlightening presentation on how all living creatures need clean water. Kids will create a dragonfly craft to take home. Recommended for ages 5-10. www.tulsalibrary.org

CHANDLER PARK EARTH DAY [FREE]
When: Saturday, April 21, 3-7 p.m.
Where: Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St.
Help make our planet and Chandler Park park a better place to play by helping with beautification projects around the park! Bring gloves and small garden tools. parks.tulsacounty.org

EARTH DAY AT GUTHRIE GREEN [FREE]
When: Sunday, April 22, 12-7 p.m.
Where: Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
This is a free celebration hosted by Tulsa Earth Coalition and featuring expert speakers, educational booths, fun family and kids activities, arts vendors, local cuisine, live music and more.
www.guthriegreen.com

EARTH DAY FLOWER PLANTING [FREE]
When: Thursday, April 26, 4-5:30 p.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Celebrate Earth Day by planting flowers around the library and then taking a flower home to plant in your own yard. Flowers are provided. For first- through fifth-graders. www.tulsalibrary.org

TCCL SEED LIBRARY PLANT SWAP [FREE]
Share your favorite multiplying plants, bulbs, cuttings, seedlings, tools, questions and stories. Edible and ornamental, indoor and outdoor plants are welcome. Please label plants. For all ages. Kendall-Whittier Library, 21 S. Lewis, 12-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

APRIL | NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

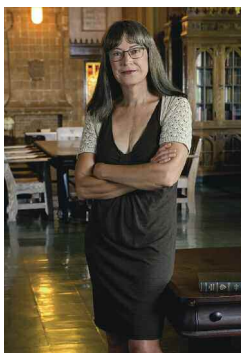
When was the last time you read a poem for pleasure? According to a 2015 article in The Washington Post, the number of people who read poetry dropped from 17 percent of the population in 2002 to 6.7 percent in 2012, and that downward trend didn't seem to be leveling off. ("Poetry is Going Extinct, Government Data Show" by Christopher Ingraham).
Thankfully, local organizations such as MUSED. are working to prove that poetry can be a vital part of a community, while others such as Poetic Justice are showcasing poetry's power to improve lives and bring healing.
Since April is National Poetry Month, now is the perfect time to celebrate the beauty and power of poetry. If you don't have any poetry in your home library, visit a city library or go online to www.poetryfoundation.org, where you can browse thousands of poets or subjects to find the perfect poem.
Specific opportunities to observe National Poetry Month are April 18, National Haiku Poetry Day; April 23, National Talk Like Shakespeare Day; April 26, National Poem in Your Pocket Day; and April 28, National Great Poetry Reading Day.

POETRY IN THE COMMUNITY

GLENPOOL POETRY CAFÉ
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 6-7:30 P.M.
Celebrate National Poetry Month! Share an original poem, read one of your favorites or listen to poetry shared by others. Participants will have 3 minutes to present their work. Light refreshments are provided. For teens and adults. Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St. www.tulsalibrary.org



POETRY NIGHT WITH KEVIN YOUNG
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 7-8:30 P.M.
Day two of the Tulsa LitFest (see description below) celebrates National Poetry Month as Kevin Young, poet and New Yorker poetry editor, reads from his latest collection. OSU-Tulsa, 700 N. Greenwood Ave. www.tulsaartistfellowship.org/tulsa-litfest

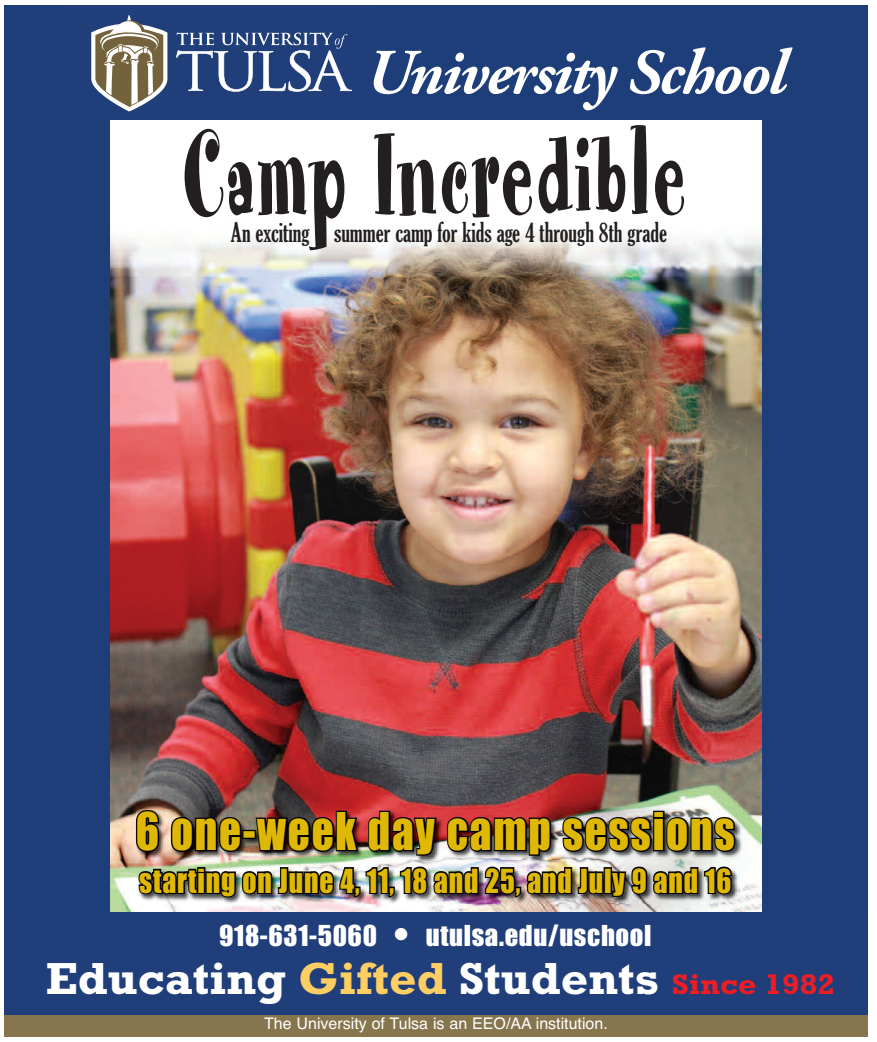


JEANETTA CALHOUN MISH, FEATURING POETIC JUSTICE
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 7-9 P.M.
2017-18 Poet Laureate of Oklahoma Jeanetta Calhoun Mish will read both original poetry and works from the Poetic Justice Project, which facilitates writing workshops for incarcerated women. OSU-Tulsa, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.

GREEN WRITING: CELEBRATING THE EARTH WITH POETRY
SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1-3 P.M.
As a celebration of National Poetry Month, join Nimrod International Journal, the Tulsa Botanic Garden, and Tulsa Artist Fellowship as we explore the connections between poetry and nature. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr. www.tulsaartistfellowship.org/tulsa-litfest

MONTHLY MUSED. POETRY NIGHT
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 6-7:30 P.M.
Poetry karaoke, anyone? On the last Sunday of each month, MUSED. and Magic City Books are teaming up to host a fun poetry night for everyone. Bring an original poem or your favorite poem to share! Magic City Books, 221 E. Archer St. www.magiccitybooks.com

TULSA LITFEST
The First Annual Tulsa LitFest will take place April 19-22! Begin the weekend with a screening of "You've Got Mail" at OSU-Tulsa, which will be followed by a talk with Erin Carlson, author of "I'll Have What She's Having: How Nora Ephron's Three Iconic Films Saved the Romantic Comedy." Other events throughout the weekend include a Small Press Book Fair on Saturday, April 21, at Greenwood Cultural Center, writing workshops and more. See the full schedule at www.tulsalitfest.org .







The Hip Mom Attempts to Read

BY JILL VANTREASE

Ahhhh….books. I was always one of those quiet, weird kids who was constantly reading something, even if it was just the cereal boxes or my mother's dorky Reader's Digests during breakfast before school. And, while assigned homework reading was never as much fun as reading Judy Blume, I still far preferred reading to doing something hard like chemistry. Some of the greatest books I've read were assigned in high school: *Night, The Hobbit, Madame Bovary, Pride and Prejudice*. And some of the books I read in college - I'll boldly say - changed my life. It's really hard, for example, when you're reading *Middlemarch*, which follows the life of the intellectual, relatable and strong Dorothea Brooke, to then go out thoughtlessly to a frat party in search of a shallow chat near the beer bong when you're hearing Dorothea's narrative point of view in your head!

Of course, unless you get a real booky job, it's hard to keep up with reading once you've launched some sort of career, unless you're deliberate about it. (Please tell me I'm not the only one who spent my early 20s working and going out after working?) And then you get married and have a baby? Forget about it! For so many years, while I was floundering around with a newborn, or a newborn and a toddler, the most my tired, foggy brain could muster was US



ANNA RHODES AT MAGIC CITY BOOKS.

Weekly, and then, later on, a pathetic scroll through Facebook. How could something I had been so passionate about as reading have taken such a back seat in my life? But these past few years I've tried to take up reading more again - certainly to my younger kids (one of the few kiddie activities I can say without irony that I adore!), and also to demonstrate to my older kids what reading a book for pleasure actually looks like. (I don't think they've noticed; it's hard for them to tear their eyes away from the Xbox.) Is it too late for lazy types like me to cultivate a home where reading is woven into the fabric of our daily lives, and not something that's done begrudgingly for school?

Alas - I don't know! But Tulsa is an exceptionally bookish town - not that the East Coast literati would believe that, but it's true! So, to prove that, yes, indeed, there are Okies who think and read, I take a little mini-tour of some of Tulsa's local bookstores.

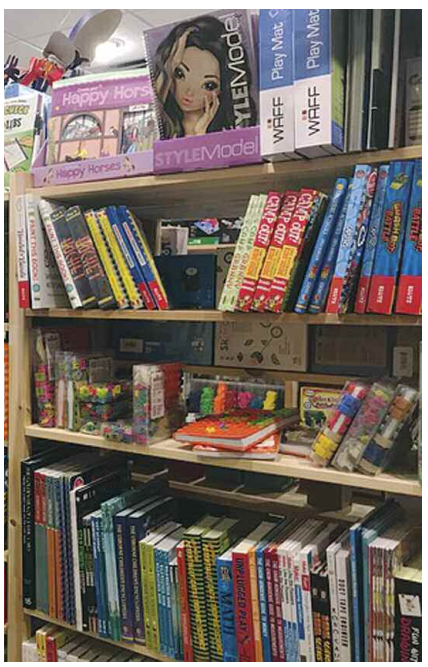
First, I hit the Decopolis, located downtown at 5th and Boston. What an unexpected delight! We park easily on the street, and wander in to the Decopolis - which perhaps is most accurately described as an enchanted tour through your eccentric, bookwormy great uncle's attic. The books are grouped loosely by themes - sci-fi, mysteries, current non-fiction - and each area is quirkily and delightfully appointed by owner/talented artist William Franklin. Fun little gifts, vintage toys and candies abound. The children's book area is a true bucolic haven full of toys, puzzles and wonderful books. We spend quite a bit of time just hanging out (and find a delightful Mo Willems book we hadn't seen before!). And the dinosaur area? Let's hope Disney doesn't hire William Franklin away from Tulsa! Decopolis offers local ice cream, vintage candy, and other treats. And they hold all kinds of fun events. This month, for example, there's a Harry Potter painting party for adults on Friday, April 13, and a kids' Harry Potter painting party Saturday the 14th. If you can't inspire your children ages 6 months to 19 and oldert to find something to read here, something has gone very wrong!

And then there's the brand spanking new, sleek and urbane - yet still warm, homey and inviting - Magic City Books. Magic City Books just opened in the Archer Building in December. Besides a bookstore, Magic City will be a homebase for BookSmart Tulsa events. Jeff Martin, who has for years hosted local literary "salons" through Booksmart Tulsa, has attracted some incredible authors, from Stephen King to Salman Rushdie to David Sedaris. Magic City Books has already begun hosting interesting Booksmart programs. In March, there was a private event with actor/writer/photographer Jason Lee, and another night titled



DECOPOLIS.

"Turning Trump into Art," among others. And, my friend Anna Rhodes, age 10, had a fabulous time at Oklahoma author Brad McClelland's launch of his hotly anticipated young reader series, "Legends of a Lost Cause." Upcoming in April are evenings with Sloane Crosley and Anita Shreve - both quite famous writers! You'll find literary and mainstream fiction at Magic City, along with narrative nonfiction for adults. One of Magic City Books' missions is supporting book clubs; their buyers favor books that are beautifully crafted and spark discussion. Plus, they consider self-published work by Tulsa area authors -- if you've got a novel that's lying around in a forgotten desk drawer, keep this in mind! This spring, Magic City Books will launch weekly storytimes for kids.



TULSA TOY DEPOT

Finally there's the delightful Tulsa Toy Depot at 101st and Sheridan. It's locally owned and full of toys, but it also boasts a great children's book section. Ryan McAdams, the owner, stocks the books in an unscientific but wholly delightful way: he keeps classics, great series (The Land of Stories, old school Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys, a darling series for babies called Indestructibles), books recommended by customers, and books that fill a need: perhaps, for example, your kid wants to become a vet. There will definitely be a selection for your future vet at Tulsa Toy Depot! Fair warning — the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is right next door. It would be criminal if you didn't get a few chocolate coins or a candy covered apple (or some Kahlua truffles for mama) while you're there.

Well, moms, good luck! Fight the fight against these darn video games! I don't know if I'm being overly dramatic, but I think the future of our nation depends on these kids burying their noses in a good book. No pressure!

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BY NATALIE MIKLES

storybook recipes

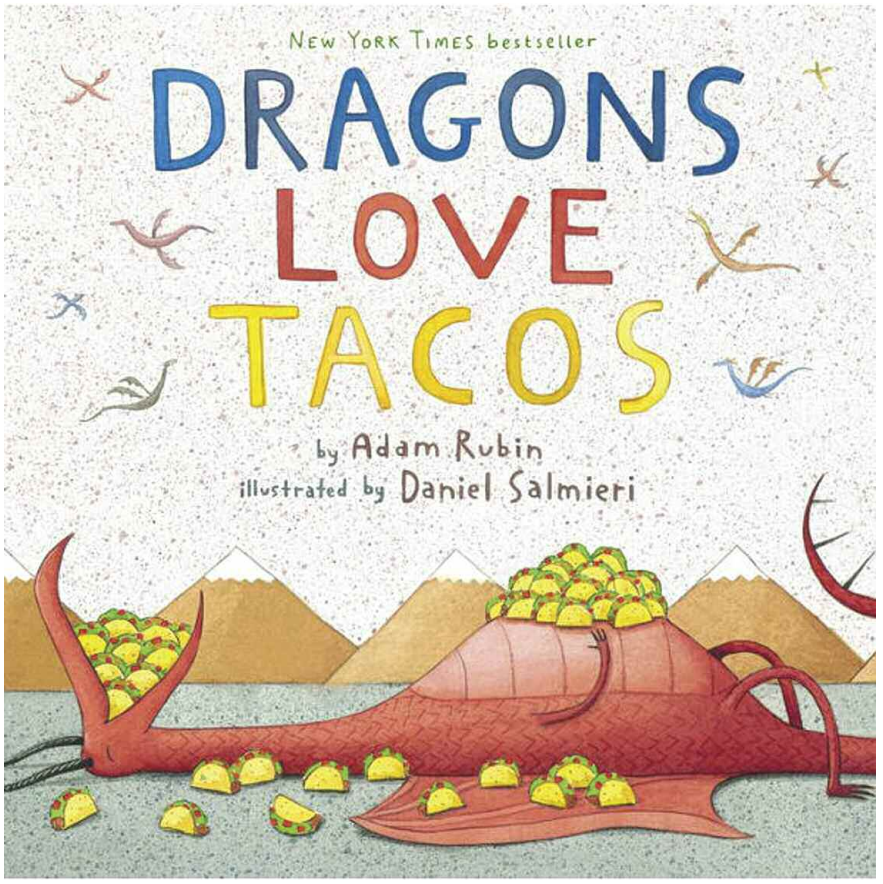
Within minutes of bringing my baby daughter, Annabeth, home from the hospital, we were curled up in a chair reading a book. For each of my kids, instilling a love for reading has been important from the very beginning.

Like many parents, we kept piles of board books out where the kids could touch and play with them. Long before they could read, they had favorite copies of *B is for Bear, Olivia and Barnyard Dance*. And now that they are readers, we keep baskets of books around so that Ramona Quimby and Harry Potter, graphic novels and magazines are always within reach.

Some of my favorite memories so far with my kids are sharing my love for reading – and cooking – with them. And combining those is a great way to add richness to their literary lives.

The first time I remember making a point to do this was reading the great Robert McCloskey book *Blueberries for Sal* before taking a trip to pick blueberries. The kids spent the morning saying "Kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk," as they dropped berries into their buckets.

The Michelle Knudsen book Autumn is for Apples is a good one to read before a trip to Livesay Orchards. And any of the Gail Gibbons fruit and vegetable books are perfect to read if you're trying to get kids interested in gardening.

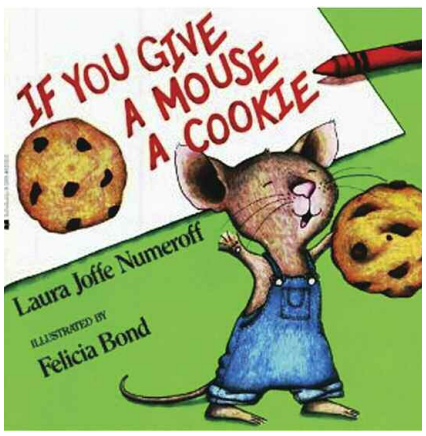


Last year we upped our literary food game by joining the Family Dinner Book Club, an online club that presents a book each month with ideas for a meal, conversation starters and table decorations. It has been fun to plan a meal – or sometimes just a snack or dessert – to complement the book we have read together for the month.

Some books, like Emily Jenkins' *A Fine Dessert*, a picture book following four families over four centuries making the same blackberry dessert, easily lend themselves to a fun cooking project. Others, like one of our favorite books, *Dominic* by William Steig, were trickier. But Dominic, the protagonist dog of the story, sets out in the beginning of the book with a nap sack of a sandwich, apple and a cookie. For our family dinner book club night, we had a simple dinner of just that, tied together with colorful bandanas.

Kids love the idea of bringing a book to life. Make cornbread in a cast iron skillet for *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, add food coloring to your eggs for *Green Eggs and Ham* or set out a rainbow of snacks for little ones after reading the *Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Here are a few ideas for creating an appetite for great books.



If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
by Laura Numeroff

Mouse's Favorite Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1 1/4 cups packed light brown

continued next page

sugar
• 1/2 cup granulated sugar
• 2 large eggs
• 1 large egg yolk
• 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
• 1 (12-ounce) bag semisweet chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Whisk the flour, baking soda and salt together in a large bowl and set aside.

2. Mix butter and sugars in a large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until combined – 1 to 2 minutes. Beat in the eggs, egg yolks and vanilla until combined, about 30 seconds.

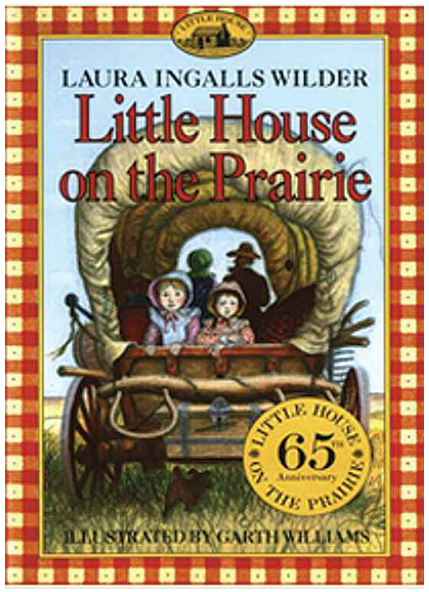
3. Reduce the mixer speed to low and slowly mix in the flour mixture until combined, about 30 seconds. Add in chocolate chips.

4. For big bakery-style cookies, scoop ¼ cup balls of dough, and place on parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake 12 to 15 minutes, or until edges are golden but centers are soft and puffy. Cool on baking sheets 10 minutes before removing.

Dragons Love Tacos
by Adam Rubin
Pineapple Chicken Tacos
• 2 cups chopped fresh pineapple
• 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
• 1 medium red onion, finely chopped
• 2 small Anaheim peppers, seeded and chopped
• 2 green onions, finely chopped
• 1 tablespoon lime juice
• 1 teaspoon sugar
• 4 pounds bone-in chicken breast halves, skin removed
• 3 teaspoons salt
• 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
• Corn tortillas, warmed
• 1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro

1. In a large bowl, combine pineapple, red onion, peppers, green onions, lime juice and sugar. Place chicken in a slow cooker, then sprinkle with salt and brown sugar. Top with pineapple mixture. Cover and cook on low for 5 to 6 hours or until chicken is tender.

2. Remove chicken, and reserve ½ cup of the juices. Discard bones and shred chicken. Combine reserved juices with chicken.



Serve in corn tortillas, and top with cilantro.

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Ingalls Family Baked Beans
• 2 (16-ounce) cans navy beans
• 3 strips bacon, diced
• 1-2 cloves garlic, minced
• 1/2 yellow onion, diced
• 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
• 1/4 cup molasses
• 1/4 cup dark brown sugar
• 1/4 cup ketchup
• 1 teaspoon prepared yellow mustard

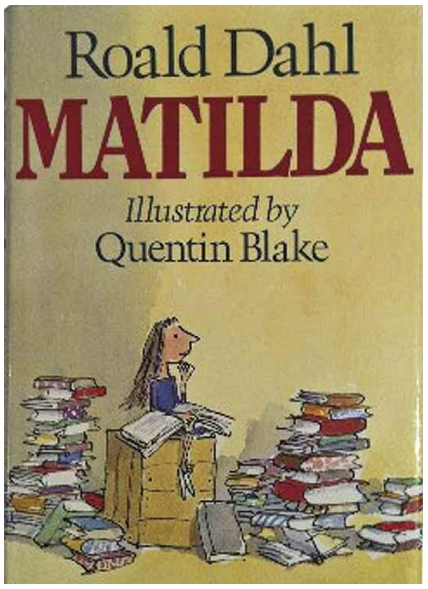
Topping:
• 2 slices bacon, halved
• 1 teaspoon brown sugar

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Pour navy beans into medium pot.

2. In a saute pan, add diced bacon, onion and garlic. Cook until bacon is crisp and onion is tender. Remove from heat, then add to navy beans.

3. Add Worcestershire sauce, molasses, brown sugar, ketchup and yellow mustard. Stir to combine well. Pour into casserole dish. Top with bacon, and sprinkle top with brown sugar.

4. Bake 45 minutes. In last 10 minutes of cooking, increase temperature to 425 degrees for 10 minutes to crisp bacon. Remove from oven and allow to rest about 5 minutes before serving.



Matilda by Roald Dahl
Miss Honey's Honey Cake
• 1 cup sliced almonds
• 1 1/4 cups whole wheat flour
• 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
• 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
• 1/2 teaspoon salt
• 3/4 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
• 1 cup honey
• 4 large eggs
• 1/4 cup sour cream or yogurt

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-inch round cake pan. Sprinkle 3/4 cup of the sliced almonds in the bottom of the pan, reserving 1/4 cup for the batter.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flours, baking soda and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, mix together the butter, honey and eggs. Stir in the reserved flour mixture, then the sour cream or yogurt and reserved almonds.

3. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl to be sure everything is evenly moistened, then mix for one minute more.

4. Gently pour the batter over the almonds in the prepared pan.

5. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes, until the edge of the cake pulls back from the edge of the pan. Remove from the oven and place on a rack to cool for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, invert the cake onto a serving plate and allow it to cool before serving.

6. Decorate the top with powdered sugar if desired.

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What's Going On(line)?



CONTESTS AND GIVEAWAYS

Win a $250 Party Package from Wheel and Thrills Family Entertainment Center

Share your best children's birthday party idea with our readers. Whether it's a creative invitation, fabulous birthday cake idea, theme, party favors or decorations, send us the idea and a photo for a chance to win a $250 Unlimited Fun Party Package from Wheels and Thrills Family Entertainment Center in Owasso.

The package includes a 3-hour party, unlimited attractions such as skate rental, a playzone and laser tag, pizza and drink for each guest, a $5 Wheels and Thrills game card and more!

TulsaKids staff will choose our favorite ideas to publish in the June birthday issue.

Contest is April 16-30. To enter, go to www.tulsakids.com/contests.

BABY GUIDE GIVEAWAY

Our annual Baby Guide is coming out in April, and we have put together a fun giveaway package! Items include: a 4-in-1 nursing cover from Covered Goods, a LaVie lactation massager, a rubber teether by Haakaa, a Haakaa New Mother Starter Pack perfect for breastfeeding moms, picture books and more!





GUEST BLOGGER

We are thrilled to have Victoria McArtor, poet and co-founder of MUSED. Organization, guest blogging for us this month! Victoria will be writing about the power of poetry to impact the lives of children, including using poetry as an anti-bullying tool. Learn more about MUSED. at www.musedorganization.org.



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BY MELODY PALMER, MLIS, YOUTH LIBRARIAN, SOUTH BROKEN ARROW LIBRARY

Cosplay for kindergartners

COSTUME PLAY BUILDS YOUNG BRAINS!

Think fast! What are some of your earliest playtime memories? Did you play Cops and Robbers? Pirates? Pretend to be a ballerina or a princess? Maybe you and a friend held a tea party, complete with tiaras, boas and Momma's high heels, or you were a mechanic, a plumber or a chef, complete with the appropriate imaginary gear.

Some of my favorite playtime memories include pretending I was a princess and playing house. We didn't have the amazing costume options available now, but my brothers and I still had a tremendous amount of fun when we added a sheet to our backs to be a superhero (Superman and Batman were very popular back then), or picked up a stick and pretended we were Luke Skywalker as he battled Darth Vader.

I say all that not to date me (though it does!), but to emphasize that playing dress-up is incredibly important for a child's brain development. I also want to note that one does not have to be rich to provide children with a wealth of costuming possibilities.

Encouraging dress-up play, also known as "cosplay" in modern-day parlance, helps your child develop in many ways, but here are just a few:

Creativity—Dress-up play helps children develop imagination in ways that they can use throughout childhood and into adulthood. Making costumes out of various bits of clothes around the house is one of the first ways children can practice creativity.



Empathy—When children put themselves into another's figurative (and sometimes literal) shoes, they are pretending and exploring how others might feel in different situations – a hallmark of empathy.

Role-Playing—Communication and vocabulary-building are key elements of role-playing. A child must learn proper terms to role-play certain professions. Children also learn how to take turns and effectively communicate who plays which part in their scenario. Children might want to play the good guy one time and the bad guy at other times. Cooperative play such as this helps them explore non-traditional roles and expand their sense of themselves in the future. (What would it be like to be a firefighter?)

Gross and Fine Motor Skill Development— Putting costumes on and taking them off helps children learn how to fasten buttons and zippers, tie shoes, and more. These actions, along with wielding props, help smaller hands become more adept at those motor skills.

Sense of fun—If a child messes up a vital costume element and learns to laugh about it,

continued next page





child and have fun creating costumes. I know I do!

this helps build a healthy sense of fun. They learn if they make a mistake, they can either fix it and move on or just live with the costume mistake.

One might think an entire room filled with costuming options is necessary, but that's not true at all. A well-stocked dress-up trunk can include any of the following: scarves, bandanas, boas, long necklaces, tutus, sunglasses, hats of all kinds, a scientist coat, goggles, an apron, a plastic sword, eye patches, and masks, all of which can be found for cheap from garage sales or free from family members. Simply add additional items and take away others as your child needs for variety and changing interests. Fancy costumes can be visually stunning, but they don't offer the same boost to creativity that having spare parts to be used in multiple ways does.

One more thing:

Don't let your child have all the fun! Cosplay sparks imagination and creativity in children of all ages. So embrace your inner

Meet the 2018 Anne V. Zarrow Award winner Pam Munoz Ryan!
Friday, May 4
7 p.m.
Hardesty Regional Library – Connor's Cove

New York Times best-selling author Pam Muñoz Ryan is the winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2018 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature.

Ryan is being recognized for writing more than 40 books to inspire imaginations, dreams and pride in all ages. From picture books, early readers and young adult novels, her writing encourages cultural awareness and the importance of believing in yourself.

Ryan's books will be for sale, and a book signing will follow her presentation.

For more information, call the library at 918-549-7323 or visit www.tulsalibrary.org.



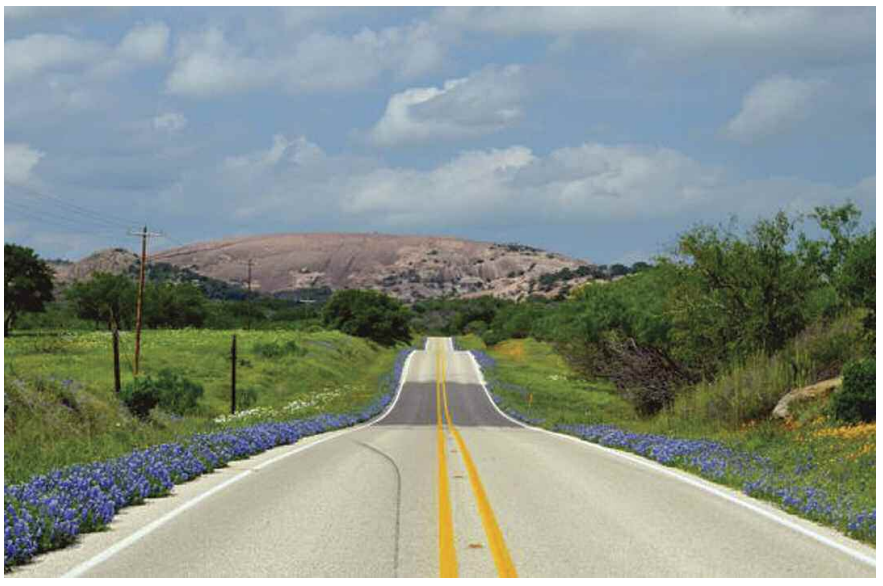


BY DIANE TRITT EATON
PHOTO COURTESY AUSTIN.COM

head for the hills in the **heart of Texas**

Each spring, miles and miles of abundant fields, meadows and pastures throughout Texas Hill Country awaken with the season's vibrant colors. The region comes alive with black-eyed Susan, lavender, Indian paintbrush and bluebonnets, Texas' state flower. Expansive vistas also include blue-hued lakes and winding, spring-fed rivers that glisten in harmony with a backdrop of rugged limestone and granite hills. Many do not realize all this beauty exists deep in the heart of Texas (where East, West and South Texas intersect), but it does, and it will surely take your breath away.

The warmer weather opens doors to extensive outdoor activity and adventure among the roughly 11.4 million acres. Charming small cities and towns that operate at a much slower and more carefree pace than their large urban neighbors, Austin and San Antonio, comfortably coexist. For added peace and quiet, there's significant access to the underworld of caverns throughout the region. An added bonus while hanging out in Hill Country is the exceptional night sky where millions of twinkling stars shine brighter than most any place else in the nation. It's hard not to fall in love with Texas Hill Country.



Hill Country Affairs

Happening activities in Texas Hill Country include driving along the roads to admire the landscape while stopping to visit shops, boutiques and local restaurants, enjoying the aquaculture by fishing, tubing, kayaking and swimming in the many rivers and lakes, or spelunking in the treasure trove of caves. After exhausting daytime activities, evening stargazing is a popular pastime, whether camping at one of the state parks, staying at a quaint B&B or resting your ten-gallon hat at a luxury resort.

The region offers so much that it's hard to showcase it all in one sitting. But, here's a sampling of some cities/towns that serve up Texas Hill Country hospitality.

Blanco

As you approach Blanco, prepare your olfactory sensors to go into overdrive, thanks to the sweet smell of light purple lavender. This herbal plant, popular for not only its smell, but it's relaxation and calming properties, fully blooms in mid-May. Blanco is dubbed the state's "Lavender Capital" with farms in full swing, allowing access to visitors, who, in some cases, can pick their own lavender. Shops sell oils, soaps, edibles and other lavender-laced products. The lovely Blanco River is dammed up in a few areas, creating relaxing natural swimming pools.

Fredericksburg

A larger town and one of major German influence, Fredericksburg is visited by many due to its darling main street (called "Hauptstrasse), outstanding German eateries and pastry shops and beautiful natural surroundings. The Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970s. There are many B&Bs and "Sunday House" Inns. Rich vineyards nearby produce award-winning wines and may be a place of interest particularly to parents who want to grab a grown-up souvenir. Be sure to head north to visit Enchanted Rock, a massive 45-foot pink granite formation. This famous Texas landmark as one of the country's largest natural rock structures.

New Braunfels

Named by German settlers for its brown rocks, New Braunfels is home to modern-day German Texans. The cold, spring-fed Guadalupe and Comal Rivers flow through the city and are hugely popular tubing tracks during the summertime. Here, Bier Gardens

continued next page

are popular dining/drinking holes. Another joy is spending time at Landa Park, home to Ancient Oak Trees which serve as shady spots that protect patrons from the hot Texas sun. Old World heritage abounds in the Gruene District, with a dense concentration of German-style architecture. There's also Schlitterbahn New Braunfels, a Bavarian themed water park providing hours of entertainment.

Stonewall

Nicknamed the peach capital of Texas and famous, in part, as the birthplace of our nation's 36th President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Stonewall is yet another wonderful site to explore. The Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site contains a living history farm, known as The Sauer-Beckmann Farm. Visitors learn about rural life by observing interpreters dressed in period clothing as they tend to the property and conduct household chores in the same fashion as they were in the early 20th century.

Head For the Hills

As a point of comparison, Lonely Planet, The World's largest travel guidebook publisher worldwide says, "New York has the Hamptons, San Francisco has the wine country and Texas has the Hill Country." You can likely guess that Texas Hill Country is a super special place for Lone Star State residents to enjoy. Due to the unique beauty, it's growing in popularity as not only a vacation destination, but as a retirement spot for many Americans.

So, shine your cowboy boots and head for a gem of a getaway. Take a road trip or fly into either Austin or San Antonio, building a vacation that combines big city with small-town adventures.

Learn more by visiting www.texashillcountry.com and www.tripstodiscover.com/best-things-to-do-with-the-kids-in-texas-hill-country/.

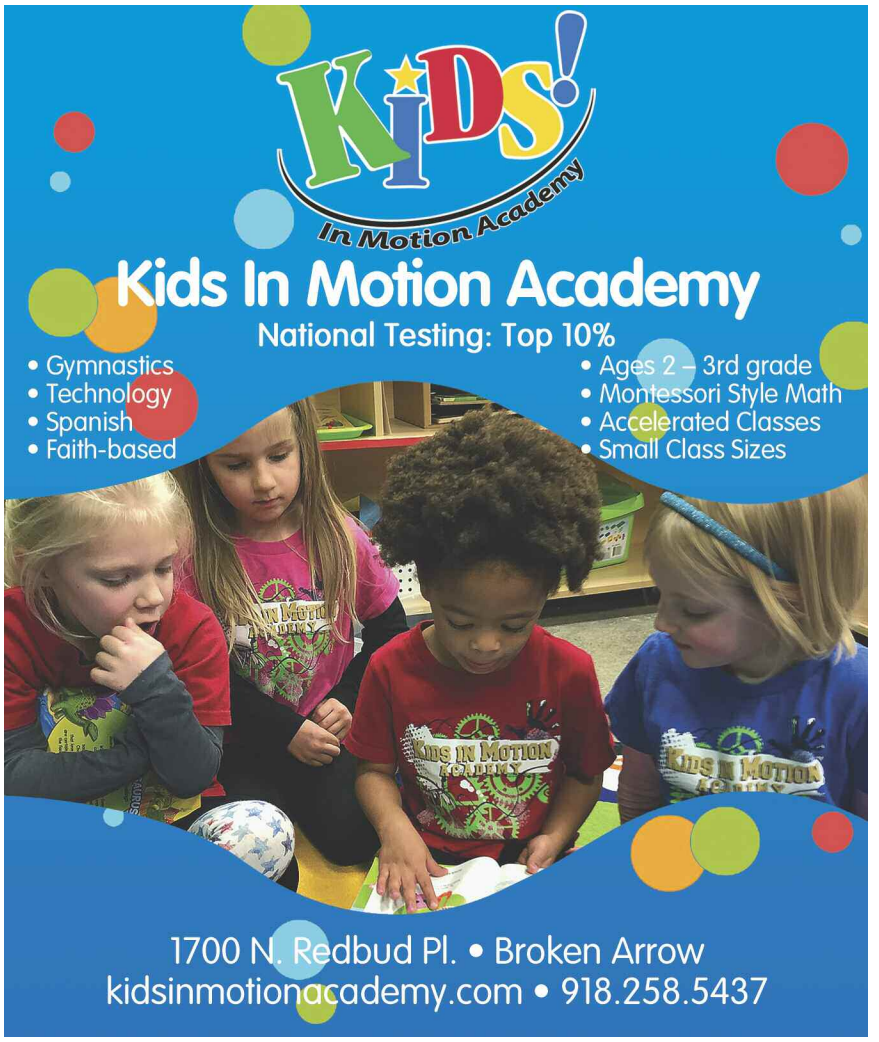












Showtimes



Jill-Christine Wiley as Maria Rainer and the von Trapp children.
Photo by Matthew Murphy

"SLEEPING BEAUTY"
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WHERE: TULSA PAC, 110 E. 2ND ST.
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WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 7 P.M.
WHERE: TULSA PAC, 110 E. 2ND ST.
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WHERE: VANTREASE PACE, 10300 E. 81ST ST.
Finalists from the "Tulsa Sings!" contest will perform classics and contemporary songs side by side with vocalist Scott Coulter and some of New York's top artists. www.signaturesymphony.org

TBII: EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS SHOWCASE
WHEN: FRIDAY-SATURDAY APRIL 13-14, 7 P.M.; SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 3 P.M.
WHERE: TULSA BALLET'S STUDIO K THEATER, 1212 E. 45TH PL.
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WHERE: CAIN'S BALLROOM, 423 N. MAIN
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"THE PRODUCERS"
WHEN: APRIL 13-14, 19-21, 8 P.M.; APRIL 14-15, 21, 2 P.M.
WHERE: TULSA PAC, 110 E. 2ND ST.
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ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S "CINDERELLA"
WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 7:30 P.M.
WHERE: BROKEN ARROW PAC, 701 S. MAIN ST.
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SIGNATURE SYMPHONY: MAHLER AND FAINGOLD
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 7:30 P.M.
WHERE: VANTREASE PACE, 10300 E. 81ST ST.
Noam Faingold, Director of Tulsa's bART Conservatory, opens a night of music with the highly anticipated world premiere of "Others." Faingold begins a circle of life, and the Signature Symphony is delighted to conclude the evening with love and hope from the second installment of our Mahler Project, Gustav Mahler's "Symphony No. 5."

"TURNADOT"
WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 7:30 P.M; SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2:30 P.M.
WHERE: TULSA PAC, 110 E. 2ND ST.
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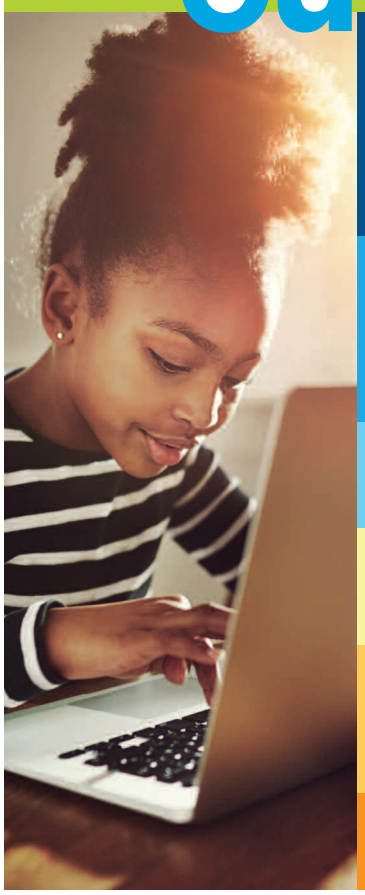
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I'M A TULSA KID

BY SHEEBA ATIQI

Ariana Reagor: Ambassador for A Gathering Place For Tulsa

As Tulsans eagerly await the opening of the new public park, A Gathering Place For Tulsa, 10-year-old Ariana Reagor is challenging the children in the community to read 2 million books before opening day! As A Gathering Place's Ambassador, Ariana is encouraging area children to explore the world through reading. Each book read makes A Gathering Place's online Reading Tree grow fuller, motivating children to set reading goals as they watch it expand.

TK: What is the Reading Tree Challenge?
Ariana: Tulsa County children were challenged to read 2 million books to open A Gathering Place. Based on the real Reading Tree, the largest and oldest cottonwood tree at Gathering Place, the challenge ignites a child's imagination to find the power and wonder in reading. With teachers, educators and families working together, we can inspire the next generation to marvel at the worlds that await them from page to page. Parents, teachers and mentors can still sign up their kids and log books at tulsareadingtree.org

TK: How are you encouraging other children to read and join the challenge?
Ariana: I encourage other children to read by sharing with them how fun, adventurous and important reading is. Reading is magical. It takes children on a journey. I love Fantasy books, and love to have fun pretending I am a princess. The Reading Tree is also magical. We have to read to help the leaves grow, so the park will open. I also share with them The Challenge: Each book children read helps us reach our goal of 2 million to open the park. Two million books sounds like a lot, but I know we can do it! By logging in to tulsareadingtree.org, children can keep track of the total books they have read, and even set their own goal on how many books they would like to read by the summer.
I also tell children how important reading is. Reading is important for comprehension, vocabulary and helps make our lives better and easier. Reading also inspires children to be anything they want to be. One day, I would like to be an actress on TV or even be in a Broadway musical. (I currently love, love, love *Newsies*. I probably have watched it about 20 times.) I have always pretended I was in a musical since I was about 5 years old. I would even memorize the choreography and set my own props, like a chair to jump on. This is what I would do when I would watch High School Musical, another of my favorites!

TK: What are your favorite types of books to read?
Ariana: Oh my goodness, I love all kinds of books! Graphic novels, fiction, historical and realistic fiction, and fantasy! Graphic novels are fun because you get to see pictures and read great stories. I learn a lot from reading historical and realistic fiction. I love learning about the past, and I love learning about people, and I love reading funny stories. And, well, fantasy is just my favorite. It gets my imagination going and is always exciting to read.

TK: Who inspires you?
Ariana: My parents always inspire me. They encourage me to do anything and be anything I love. They say as long as I am happy doing what I love then that is what matters. They inspire me to always believe in my dreams, and they tell me anything is possible.
I have been inspired my whole life by people around me. My parents and my teachers have had a huge impact on me. They have given me the tools I need to succeed in life and have inspired me to believe in myself! My second-grade teacher would read so many different types of fun books to the class. She always made it so real and exciting! In her class, we would also write stories and have publishing parties.



They were the best because we would get to share our work with our classmates and eat goodies, of course. This is where my love for reading began, and my imagination came to life. Her class inspired me to write. I continue to write today and hope to one day write and illustrate a children's book.

TK: What are your hobbies?
Ariana: I love art! The art of drawing, the art of writing, and the art of designing all inspire me. For example, I love, love, love crafting doll items. I make doll background scenes, so you can pretend your doll is in different places. I also have fun making doll clothing, accessories, and miniature doll items like accessories, food items, cell phone, etc. It can take hours to hand-make a miniature turkey dinner with fixings for your dolls. It's a lot of crafting, but so much fun seeing the end result. One day, I will be able to enter a craft into the Tulsa State Fair competition.
I also love drawing. I can draw different characters for hours. I have watched different drawing teaching videos on how to draw a particular character and then follow them step-by-step. After watching so many hours of drawing videos, I can now draw some of my own characters. It is so much fun seeing my characters come to life. I save my drawings now because my mom and dad love them and they tell me I can use my characters in a children's book that I hope to write one day soon. I also love to write fantasy stories. I can write and write and write for days. In third grade, I even got 1st place in the state in the PTA Reflections Contest, The Literary Division. When I have an idea for a cute short story, I start writing some of the story, and then, since I love to draw, I draw my background and characters for my stories…another reason my mom and dad say, "Looks like a book is coming my way soon"

TK: What are your plans and goals for the future?
Ariana: Since I love acting, I want to one day be on TV and, of course, my biggest goal would be to be on the Disney Channel, but any children's channel would be amazing.
My plans are to continue pursuing my acting career and going on auditions. This is how I got to be The Ambassador of The Gathering Place. It is the biggest and best project I have gotten so far. It is also so much fun encouraging children to read while doing something I love. Reading has helped my imagination so much, being able to one day write and illustrate a children's book would be an amazing goal that I hope to reach.

TK: What is a fun fact about you?
Ariana: I am afraid of the 3 C 's: " Clowns, Crabs and Crickets." And by the way that's an alliteration!

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His patients will always have a place in his heart.

As a native Tulsan, Dr. Matthew Kimberling says he wouldn't want to be anywhere else. As a pediatric cardiologist at The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, he and his partners care for infants, children and teens with heart conditions—some very complex. "The children's hospital allows local families the ability to stay close to home for their child's special healthcare needs," he says. "My greatest reward is seeing my patients come back years later after a diagnosis—healthy and strong. I think that I have the best job in the world."

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