

The Official Newsletter of the Association of American Publishers' Get Caught Reading Campaign, Volume 5, #1

A Message about Adopt-a-School from Tom Allen

Dear Get Caught Reading Supporter,

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of AAP member publishers and their talented authors, 23 schools ranging from grades K-12 were adopted in the fourth annual AAP Adopt-a-School program. In cooperation with the New York City Department of Education and the Children's Book Council, Adopt-A-School is an effort to encourage reading with students across the greater New York City area by matching AAP and CBC member publishers with New York City public schools to schedule author visits. It fosters an ongoing partnership with school libraries in order to encourage the love of books and reading among students.

Participating publishers in Adopt-a-School 2010 included: Akashic Books, Candlewick Press, DC Comics, Disney/Hyperion, Godine, HarperCollins Children's, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group, Hachette Book Group, Mrs. P Enterprises, Penguin Group USA, Random House, Scholastic, Inc., Simon & Schuster Children's, Story Corps, Tor Teen, Workman Publishing, and others. A big thank you to our publishers for giving back to the city by joining this effort to support the art of reading and writing for New York City school children!

I urge you to read about some of our visits in this special Adopt-a-School newsletter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Allen".

Tom Allen, President and CEO
Association of American Publishers

"The world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. Monuments fall, nations perish, civilizations grow old and die out, and after an era new races build others. But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen again and again and yet live on, still young, still as fresh as the day they were written, still telling men's hearts of the heart of men centuries dead."

—Clarence Day

Unfortunately at this time, we are unable to accommodate schools outside of New York City in the Adopt-a-School program, but if you are interested in being considered for the Adopt-a-School program, please contact Becca Worthington at bworthington@publishers.org

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2010

Super Chicken Nugget Boy Visits Brooklyn

It's not every day that a huge chicken nugget in a superhero cape wanders into your school library and teaches you a cheer, but it happened for Brooklyn elementary school PS131: Magnet School for the Performing Arts. Disney/Hyperion was excited to sponsor them for Adopt-a-School 2010. On December 6th, Josh Lewis, author of the Super Chicken Nugget Boy series, spoke to 225 students in grades 1-4 in a set of library visits. Not only did he do an interactive reading from his book *SUPER CHICKEN NUGGET BOY AND THE FURIOUS FRY* (of which many copies were donated to the library for the students), but he tackled the subject of bullying, led the students in the creation of a spontaneous superhero story, and Super Chicken Nugget Boy himself even showed up to visit with the children of PS131!



Giving a Voice to "Lost Voices"



What if pain could transform a hurting girl into a mermaid? That is the premise of *LOST VOICES*, the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt book that author Sarah Porter read from to a captivated audience of 250 sixth and seventh graders. As part of Adopt-a-School 2010, Sarah read from her debut young adult novel at the Science and Medicine School in Brooklyn on December 7th. A creative writing teacher in the New York area, she met afterwards with a group of ten specially invited high school students, all English students identified by their professors as being interested readers or budding writers, for a discussion on the creative process. Advanced reading copies of her book were donated by the publisher to the school library, and the librarian said that the students are clamoring to read it.

Listening Is an Act of Love

On December 22nd, StoryCorps participated in Adopt-a-School 2010 by leading two workshops for tenth graders at the High School for Arts and Business in Corona, Queens. Using the StoryCorps approach to oral history to teach elements of storytelling and interviewing, the students listened to and discussed interviews that had been edited and broadcast, and then they interviewed each other. StoryCorps ended the class by letting students know how *LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE*, the book each of them received as a gift from Penguin Group USA, contains more stories that reflect their own backgrounds and experiences, along with suggested questions and tips for interviews they, themselves, might do. The goal was to help students understand the importance of the stories they and their families have and how stories as oral histories are often the basis of stories that we read.



"It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations—something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own."

—Katherine Patterson

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2010

S&S Adopts a Charter School



What do a lizard-loving code-breaker and a 7th grade matchmaker have in common? They are main characters in books by author Barbara Dee. Simon & Schuster proudly sponsored Barbara's visit to Harlem Day Charter School for Adopt-a-School 2010. Author of young adult books for girls such as SOLVING ZOE and THIS IS ME FROM NOW ON, Barbara spoke to three fourth and fifth grade classes about creativity, the writing process, and the value of constructive criticism on December 9th. A vibrant question-and-answer session in each library visit was followed by a book signing. Barbara later told the publisher, "It's hard to imagine a more grateful, enthusiastic bunch of readers, and I felt proud to be associated with a publisher who wants to keep them reading," she said.

Feeding Frenzy in Park Slope

Scholastic author Barry Lyga was a huge hit with the students of the Park Slope Education Complex at MS88 in Brooklyn. Fueled only by a bottle of blue Gatorade, Barry spoke in a marathon session on December 7th to three back-to-back classes of 8th graders (90 students in total). The school librarian said that not only was he "funny and gracious, answering a ton of kid questions that he's probably already answered a million times," but that there was a feeding frenzy over his books after each presentation. Even the generous donation of 30 copies of his book ARCHVILLAIN was not able to meet the students' demand for personal, classroom and library copies after connecting with the author. As for Barry, he said, "There's no better source of pleasure for an author than an attentive group of kids and a dedicated, helpful faculty. My visit to MS88 had both in abundance."



Spread the Word: Libraries Matter!

Our newest GCR initiative, *Libraries Matter*, is a set of promotional videos, available to download for free at www.getcaughtreading.org. Use this exciting new media tool to inspire your students and children to utilize the materials and opportunities their local and school libraries have to offer. Available in February, visit our website to download videos of the following authors talking about how Libraries Matter to each of them:

Sebastian Junger
Garrison Keillor
Annie Barrows
Rebecca Costa
Laura Numeroff
Joyce Sidman
Jacqueline Jules
Sylvia Long
Jessica Harper
Bob Barner
Keith Graves
Karen Cushman
Linda Sue Park
Dori Hillestad Butler
...and more!

Passion for Puppetry

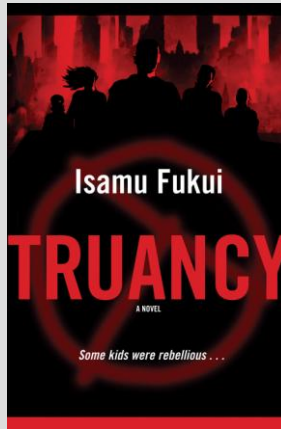
You may not recognize his face, but chances are you've seen Noel MacNeal in action. An accomplished puppeteer, he has been the lovable Bear from Disney's *Bear in the Big Blue House*, Mommy Snuffleupagus on *Sesame Street*, and Kako on Nick Jr.'s *Oobi*. Park Slope school PS32: Samuel Mills Spole got a special treat when Workman Publishing sponsored them for Adopt-a-School 2010. Noel compiled his knowledge of puppetry from more than 20 years performing on *Sesame Street* into a children's book called 10-MINUTE PUPPETS which shows how to make quick and creative puppets from socks, brown paper bags, pipe cleaners, and more. On December 10th, he spent the day making puppets from his book with 135 students in grades K-2 in the school library, and it couldn't have been more fun!



ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2010

19-Year-Old Author Adopts Three Schools

Can you imagine being a 19-year-old freshman at New York University who has already published two books? Meet Isamu Fukui, author of the TRUANCY trilogy. Tor/Forge Books knew that Isamu's accomplishments would be an inspiration to the students he met through participating in Adopt-a-School, and they were right! On December 10th, he led a series of discussions with sophomores and seniors from the High School for Arts and Technology; High School for Arts, Imagination, and Inquiry; and Manhattan Hunter Science High School, all based in Manhattan's Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Campus. Tor/Forge donated a full set of TRUANCY to participating students, which he signed individually for all 75 students.



Repairman Jack Heads to Brooklyn

Ever wonder what an underground mercenary is like as a teenager? Ask F. Paul Wilson. An accomplished adult fiction author who has recently crossed over into young adult fiction by reimagining his Repairman Jack character as a youth, Paul recently spoke with 70 students from two seventh grade classes about the writing process, his own history, how writers get their ideas, what it is like to have a career as an author, and of course, Repairman Jack. Tor/Forge Books sponsored Paul to adopt IS318: Eugenio Maria De Hostos in Brooklyn on December 9th as part of Adopt-a-School 2010. They provided a classroom set of JACK: SECRET HISTORIES, which he signed for each student at the end of the session.

Anna In-Between Goes To Staten Island

Five high school English classes enjoyed an author visit at the Tottenville High School Library in Staten Island by distinguished author Elizabeth Nunez on December 10th. Sponsored by Akashic Books, teachers and students alike found her presentation interesting, informative, and engaging as they listened to her talk about her background as an immigrant from the Caribbean, her views of the world and her craft as a writer. In addition to the visit, THS Library also received a class set of her award-winning book, ANNA IN-BETWEEN, which students have been assigned to read in class with the teacher. "It was such an enriching experience for our students to meet an author and make a connection between the writer and the printed word," said Librarian Mary Ellen Fox.



Author/Illustrator Makes Music in The Bronx



She writes! She draws! She sings! Author/illustrator Iza Trapani blew away the students at Bronx elementary school CS102: Joseph O. Loretan School for Creative Arts. Sponsored by Charlesbridge Publishing, she met with 240 students in grades K-2 on December 10th in a series of library visits. In an animated and interactive presentation, she read from SCHOOL DAYS: RUFUS AND FRIENDS and then kept the children entertained by singing and playing music as she drew. The visits ended a book signing. The students were thrilled to meet a "real live author and illustrator." The seasonal drawings she created in the presentations have been framed and permanently hung in the school library to celebrate the exciting visit.

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2010

It's All Fun and Games with BrainQuest



What kind of pictures show your bones? What is a mayor in charge of? Can a violin also be called a fiddle, an ax, or a squeezebox? These were some of the questions asked on December 14th at PS175: Henry Highland Garnet School for Success in Manhattan. A special treat for Adopt-a-School, two representatives from Workman Publishing appeared at to conduct a series of interactive Brain Quest challenges with 135 students (three first grade classes and two second grade classes). Supporting the slogan, "It's Fun to Be Smart!" Brain Quest is a fast-paced, curriculum-based educational game that uses Question and Answer cards to challenge children in a smart game where everyone wins.

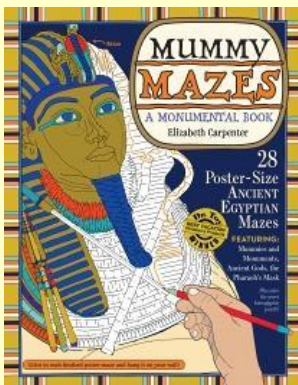
A Fairy Tale Come True

A long-time supporter of the Get Caught Reading campaign, Mrs. P adopted PS217: Colonel David Marcus School for Adopt-a-School 2010. She performed a version of "Jack and the Beanstalk" from her newly published book, *MRS. P'S FOUR FAVORITE FAIRY TALES AND FUNNY STORIES*, for 52 children from two second grade classes. "The kids thought she was a riot," said Librarian Barbara Auerbach. "They were hysterical. She's a born storyteller, and they were mesmerized by watching her." Donated copies of the book are being used over the course of this school year as prizes for each class's Student of the Month program.



Mummy Mazes

Mummies, monuments, and murals, oh my! Workman Publishing and author/illustrator Elizabeth Carpenter sponsored PS14-Q Fairview in Queens for Adopt-a-School 2010. In a presentation on December 10th, Elizabeth spoke to the children of PS14 about the history of ancient Egypt. The children worked on mazes with ancient gods, Pharaoh's mask, the Giant Sphinx, the pyramid complex at Giza from her book *MUMMY MAZES* (a present from Workman Publishing for the students). She also helped students create their own mazes. "The students were so excited to meet a real author," said Library Media Specialist Maura Roth. "I know this experience will be a highlight of their school days at P.S. 14."



A Letter from the NYC DOE



To the Association of American Publishers,

Thank you so much for continuing to invite our schools to participate in the Adopt-a-School program. As we challenge ourselves to engage our students and encourage them to read, allowing them to experience an author visit extends the joy of reading. Not only are students able to meet the author and discuss their books, but the pre-reading and discussions that follow often piques the interest of even the most reluctant readers. School librarians have continuously expressed excitement about participating in the Adopt-a-School program, as it allows them to engage students in different literacy-based learning activities. Over the past few years, many librarians looking to enhance their library programming have been fortunate enough to be paired with an Adopt-a-School author. We look forward to collaborating with the Association of American Publishers throughout the school year.

Arlene Dominguez
New York City Department of Education
Office of Strategic Partnerships