

The Official Newsletter of the Association of American Publishers' Get Caught Reading Campaign, Volume 6, #2

## A Welcome Message from Tom Allen

Dear Get Caught Reading Supporter,

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of AAP member publishers and their talented authors, 30 schools ranging from grades K-12 were adopted in the fifth 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.

Participating publishers in Adopt-a-School 2011 included: Bearport Publishing, Candlewick Press, Charlesbridge, Disney/Hyperion, Godine, Good Parent Good Child, Hachette Book Group, Harlequin Teen, HarperCollins, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Macmillan, Penguin Group USA, Random House, Scholastic, Inc., Simon & Schuster, Sourcebooks, Sterling, Story Corps, Tor/Forge, Workman, 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.

Keep reading,

Tom Allen, President and CEO  
Association of American Publishers

## NEW! Jennifer Stone Gets Caught Reading!

We're thrilled to announce our latest Gets Caught Reading celebrity supporter, **JENNIFER STONE!** Jennifer, best known for playing Harper Finkle on the Disney Channel series *Wizards of Waverly Place* and Harriet Welsh in the Disney Channel film *Harriet the Spy: Blog Wars*, Got Caught Reading to two of her adorable co-actors on the set of her latest TV series, *Deadtime Stories: Grave Secrets* (based on the Tor/Forge book by the same name!)

You can order your FREE posters on our website [www.getcaughtreading.org](http://www.getcaughtreading.org).

The Pocoyo/Stephen Fry posters from last month are now in stock and available for order as well.

Enjoy!



Jennifer Stone as "The Babysitter" Gets Caught Reading



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

# ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2011

## PS 131 Learns to Draw



On Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, author and illustrator Tracy Dockray did two library visits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders of PS 131K in Brooklyn. Using the school's Elmo technology, she did a presentation on her experience working on children's books, and then she drew for the children, taught them art games, and read portions of *THE LOST AND FOUND PONY*, which she wrote and illustrated. Macmillan Children's/Feiwele and Friends donated a classroom set of the books for the students at PS 131K. Learn more at [www.tracydockray.com](http://www.tracydockray.com).

## Noel MacNeal Telling Stories with Your Hands

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Sesame Street puppeteer and author Noel MacNeal did three arts-and-crafts sessions for the second and third graders of PS 375M: Mosaic Prep in upper Manhattan, New York, where Noel actually went to elementary school as a child! The students made their own puppets, from butterflies to frogs. In addition, Workman Publishing donated a classroom set of Noel's book *10-MINUTE PUPPETS*. Learn more at [www.noelmacneal.com](http://www.noelmacneal.com).



## Triple Threat Entertainment

The students at the High School for the Arts and Technology and the Manhattan Theatre Lab (two schools on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Campus) got to meet an actress, playwright, and author rolled into one. Leanna Renee Heiber visited their campus to do two classroom presentations in January 2012 for the prior Adopt-a-School program. Sourcebooks Fire provided 30 copies of *DARKER STILL*, part of her "Magic Most Foul" series, and one in a long string of YA Gothic Victorian Fantasy novels. Visit her at [www.leannareneehieber.com](http://www.leannareneehieber.com).



## East Side Community Finds Their Lost Voices



On Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt author Sarah Porter joined the Adopt-a-School program for the second year in a row to conduct two creative writing sessions and a discussion with the school book club at East Side Community High School in Manhattan. Students drafted short stories under her supervision and guidance and left the class encouraged... and well-read, since HMH gave the students a classroom set of her book *LOST VOICES*, first in a trilogy about a despairing 14-year-old who finds herself transformed into a mermaid. Visit Sarah at <http://sarahporterbooks.com>.

# ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2011

## An Angel Visits CS 154M

Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Gina Otto, three auditorium sessions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders of CS 154M: Harriet Tubman Elementary School in upper Manhattan. CASSANDRA'S ANGEL (Sterling Publishing) is a modern-day fairy tale that Gina wrote to instill the ideas of self-reliance, self-worth, tolerance, and self-acceptance in youth across the country. The Adopt-a-School visit was part of a cross-country tour of school visits that she has undertaken to promote this message. Sterling donated a classroom set of books for the students. For more information, visit: <http://cassandrasangel.com/gina-otto/>.



## Jump for Joy



Ellen Bari, author of Kar-Ben Publishing's JUMPING JENNY, encouraged the pre-K students at Good Shepherd School in Inwood, NY jump for joy on Friday, December 16, 2011. In three sessions, she led the children in crafts, games, coloring, and art projects surrounding the theme of JUMPING JENNY, encouraging children to make a difference in the world through mitzvah projects, just like Jenny does with a pogo stick Jumpathon in the book. Learn more at [www.ellenbari.com](http://www.ellenbari.com).

## East Brooklyn Community High School Gets Two Authors



On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, two groups of specially selected 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders at East Brooklyn Community High School received a joint visit from two Adopt-a-School authors, Gae Polisner, author of the YA book THE PULL OF GRAVITY (Macmillan Children's) and Christopher Grant, author of TEENIE (Random House). Both publishers donated free copies of the authors' books, which they signed and discussed with the students in intimate conversation in the library.

## PS 10 Elementary School Finds Walrus

Award-winning illustrator Steven Savage visited PS 10 Elementary School in Brooklyn, NY on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. In three library visits for over 100 students, ages 4-11, Steven did live illustrations for the children, read to them from his book WHERE'S WALRUS? (which Scholastic donated 30 copies of to the school for the Adopt-a-School program), answered questions, autographed books, played games, and even put on a walrus mask to hide from the kids... but they found him anyway! Visit him at [www.stephensavage.net](http://www.stephensavage.net)



# ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2011

## PS 366X Gets Spellbound



On Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Cara Lynn Schultz, author of supernatural teen series SPELLBOUND (published by Harlequin TEEN) visited PS 366X: Urban Assembly for Civic Engagement in the Bronx, NY. In the course of one day, she met with the entire 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes of the school, eagerly participating in two smaller library sessions, book club discussions with author signings, and a full-school auditorium presentation on the writing process.

## Sparky the Fire Dog Visits PS 62Q

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders of PS 62Q in Queens, NY were visited by a smaller version of Sparky the Fire Dog, the official mascot for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This was part of two auditorium sessions featuring Emmy-award winning children's book author Don Hoffman. Charlesbridge donated copies of Don's book SPARKY THE FIRE DOG to the school children as well. Visit him at [www.donhoffmanauthor.com](http://www.donhoffmanauthor.com).



## StoryCorps Adopts Three Local Schools

StoryCorps participated in Adopt-a-School 2011 by leading workshops for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders at three schools this year: East Side Community High School in Manhattan on December 15<sup>th</sup>, PS 303M: Facing History School in Manhattan on December 16<sup>th</sup>, and Tottenville High School on Staten Island on December 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. Visit <http://storycorps.org>.



## Additional Adopt-a-School 2011 Partners

Monday, 12/12: **Peter Ackerman**, author of THE LONELY PHONE BOOTH (Godine), did three auditorium sessions for the students of PS 102X: Joseph O. Loretan School for the Creative Arts in the Bronx.

Tuesday, 12/13: **Michael Sandler**, author of over 68 non-fiction books (Bearport), did three auditorium sessions for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders of PS 63Q in Queens.

Tuesday, 12/13: **Jason Pinter**, author of ZEKE BARTHOLOMEW: SUPERSPY (Sourcebooks), did three sessions for the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders at IS 204Q in Queens.

Tuesday, 12/13: **Audrey Vernick**, author of IS YOUR BUFFALO READY FOR KINDERGARTEN? (HarperCollins) did three classroom visits for the K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders at PS 184: Flushing Manor in Queens.

Wednesday, 12/14: **Steve Metzger**, author of DETECTIVE BLUE (Scholastic), did three auditorium sessions for the 1<sup>st</sup> graders of PS60 Woodhaven in Queens.

Thursday 12/15: **Barry Lyga**, author of MANGAMAN (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) did three library visits for the high schoolers of PS 551M: New York Harbor School on Governor's Island.

Friday, 12/16: **Nancy Krulik**, author of JACK GETS A CLUE (Scholastic), did three library sessions for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders of PS360X in the Bronx.

Friday, 12/16: **Gbemi Rhuday-Perkovich**, author of 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUPERZERO (Scholastic) did three library sessions for the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders at PS 386: School for Environmental Citizenship in the Bronx.

January 2012: **Rebecca Jackson**, author of MATILDA & MAXWELL'S FREAKY HOMEWORK FIASCO (Good Parent, Good Child), organized two auditorium sessions for CS 150X: Charles James Fox Elementary in the Bronx.

January 2012: **Tommy Greenwald**, author of CHARLIE JOE JACKSON'S GUIDE TO NOT READING (Macmillan Children's) did three sessions for the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders at George Jackson Academy in Manhattan in January 2012.

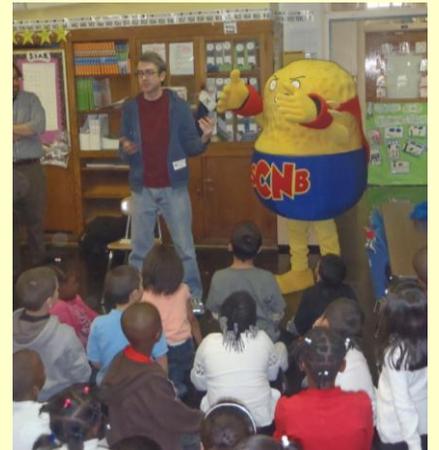
March 2012: **Bobbi Carducci**, author of STOREE WRYTER GETS A DOG (Tate Publishing) did three auditorium visits for the K-5<sup>th</sup> graders of Forest Grove Elementary School in Sterling, VA.

# ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2011

## Super Chicken Nugget Boy Strikes Again



A repeat supporter of the Adopt-a-School program, Disney author and stand-up comedian Josh Lewis read from one of the books in his SUPER CHICKEN NUGGET BOY franchise for 120 kids in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grades of PS 32K in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. In three library sessions, these lucky children not only learned a lesson about standing up for oneself in the face of bullying, but on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, they also got a visit from Super Chicken Nugget Boy himself and got to participate in the SCNB cheer!



## Creative Writing for “Weenies”

In a hilarious, interactive series of presentations on creative writing on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, David Lubar, best-selling author of the WEENIES books and the NATHAN ABERCROMBIE: ACCIDENTAL ZOMBIE series, graced the 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders at St. Joseph’s School in the Bronx with three auditorium visits. He led energetic improvisational writing exercises with the students, told stories, and shared knowledge about the writing process. In closing, Tor/Forge donated a classroom set of books, which he signed for 30 lucky students. Visit him here: <http://www.davidlubar.com>.



## Staten Island Welcomes a “Starr” Illustrator

Bridget Starr Taylor visited the fourth graders of PS 21R: Margaret-Emery Elm Park Elementary School in Staten Island, NY for three library sessions in January 2012 as a late addition to Adopt-a-School 2011. She led the children in an interactive illustration session, revealing some of her original artwork from THE ADVENTURES OF ISABEL by Ogden Nash (Sourcebooks), and Capstone Publishing donated several copies THE TRUTH ABOUT TROLLS to the students of PS 21R. View her artwork and illustrations at [www.bridgetstarrtaylor.com](http://www.bridgetstarrtaylor.com).

