WIZARDS OF WORDS 2013

Liberty Corner School is pleased to announce that Wizards of Words 2013 will take place March 19-21. Wizards of Words is a program designed to provide our students with the opportunity to meet and intimately converse with award-winning authors and illustrators. The children have the chance to hear directly from the authors about what inspires them to write; where they get their ideas for books; how they go about writing a book; and what it takes to get a book published. And, there’s always time for Q&A!! It is a much anticipated component of the Liberty Corner School curriculum.

Tuesday, March 19, we will welcome Daniel Kirk to Liberty Corner School. Daniel Kirk is the author and illustrator of more than 21 popular books for children, including picture books Cat Power; Dogs Rule!; Hush, Little Alien; Library Mouse; Lunchroom Lizard; and Snow Dude. He has collaborated with well-known illustrators, such as Margaret Wise Brown, Kevin Lewis, and Robert Louis Stevenson on titles such as The Diggers, Dinosaur Dinosaur, My Truck is Stuck, and Block City. His more recent work includes Elf Realm, a series of young-adult fantasy. Mr. Kirk will be meeting with Kindergarteners and grades 1 and 2. Please see his website: [http://danielkirk.com](http://danielkirk.com/index.html) for additional information.

On Wednesday, March 20, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will meet with author Lauren Tarshis. Ms. Tarshis is the editor of Scholastic's Storyworks and Scope magazines, and the author of the wildly popular I Survived series and the critically acclaimed novels Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell out of a Tree and Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love. She can be found online at www.laurentarshis.com.

On Thursday, March 21, all Liberty Corner students will have the opportunity to meet author and illustrator Trinka Hakes Noble, who is coming to us from the Jockey Hollow section of Bernardsville. Trinka Hakes Noble is the award-winning author of numerous picture books including The Orange Shoes (2007 National Parenting Publications Awards Honors Winner), The Scarlet Stockings Spy (2005 IRA Teachers’ Choice), The Last Brother, and The Legend of the Cape May Diamond. Ms. Noble also wrote the ever-popular Jimmy’s Boa series and Meanwhile Back at the Ranch, both featured on PBS’s Reading Rainbow. Her many awards include ALA Notable Children’s Book, Booklist Children’s Editors’ Choice, IRA-CBC Children’s Choice, Learning: The Year’s Ten Best, and several Junior Literary Guild Selections. Her website is <http://trinkahakesnoble.com>.

The PTO is sponsoring a book sale of selected titles from each author. You can provide your child with a lasting memory of this special event by purchasing one or more books and having the book(s) personalized for your child by the author. Descriptions of the books being offered are provided in this handout and many of the books are available in the library for your review.

To place an order, please complete the attached order form(please use one order form per student) and return it to the office along with **one check per family** made out to Liberty Corner PTO in an envelope marked “PTO – Wizards of Words.” Please place the one check and all order forms in the same envelope. **Orders must be returned no later than February 11, 2013. Due to ordering time constraints, late requests cannot be accommodated**.

Please use one order form per student. If your book is to be inscribed to more than one child, please indicate which student is to be presented with the book. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Feller at [cmcfeller@hotmail.com](mailto:cmcfeller@hotmail.com) or Mie Holmqvist at [mg\_holmqvist@yahoo.com](mailto:mg_holmqvist@yahoo.com).

BOOKS BY DANIEL KIRK:

**1) Library Mouse 1.**A small creature offers his big voice for aspiring authors everywhere! Every child can be a writer—and Library Mouse shows them how! Beloved children's books author and illustrator Daniel Kirk wonderfully brings to life the story of Sam, a library mouse. Sam's home was in a little hole in the wall behind the children's reference books, and he thought that life was very good indeed; for Sam loved to read. He read picture books and chapter books, biographies and poetry, and ghost stories and mysteries. Sam read so much that finally one day he decided to write books himself! Sam shared his books with other library visitors by placing them on a bookshelf at night…until there came the time that people wanted to meet this talented author. Whatever was Sam to do? The joy of reading, writing, and sharing is brought to life in this warmhearted tale.

**2) Library Mouse 2 - "A Friend's Tale."**Sam is a library mouse. He lives in a little hole in the wall behind the children’s reference books. Sam loves to write and draw, and everyone loves the little books he leaves on the shelves of the library for them to find. But Sam is also very shy around people, and no one at the library has ever met him—until Tom. When the library’s Writers and Illustrators Club is given an assignment to work with partners, Tom finds he is the odd kid out. Then he discovers Sam’s identity and hopes they can work together on a project. But what will happen if everyone discovers Sam is a mouse? Can Tom keep the secret? In this sequel to Library Mouse, Daniel Kirk brings to life the joys of writing, friendship, and collaboration.

**3) Library Mouse 3, "A World to Explore."** One night in the library, Sam meets fellow mouse Sarah. Sam learns that Sarah is quite the explorer. She loves to scurry to the tops of shelves and explore the darkest corners of the building. Sam never climbs far up-he's too afraid! Sam thinks you can learn all you need to know about a subject by reading about it. Sarah doesn't know much about writing or research, but Sam helps her learn more about the places she wishes to visit. Together this duo shows that anything is possible with a little teamwork.

**4) Library Mouse 4, "A Museum Adventure."**Sam the library mouse and his friend Sarah are off on a new adventure. This time they leave the library behind and go to a museum so Sam can make sketches in his explorer’s journal. Sarah isn’t so sure that explorers have the time or the interest to write in journals. But Sam shows her that a journal can contain anything, from a ticket stub to drawings of cool things like dinosaurs and ancient Egyptian mummies. As they explore the museum, they see all kinds of art and unexpectedly make friends with another artist. The latest book in this bestselling series is sure to entice readers to come along on the museum adventure.

The Library Mouse books are appropriate for K-2.

BOOKS BY LAUREN TARSHIS:

**5) I Survived #1: I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic 1912.**This is the story of George, who gets to go on the Titanic with his Aunt Daisy and his little sister Phoebe. George is fascinated by the ship. He gets to meet the ship’s captain and designer, and even hears a rumor that there’s a mummy stowed in the ship’s baggage compartment. But when he goes to investigate, he hears a terrible crash…the ship has hit an iceberg?

**6) I Survived #2: I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916.** A boy named Chet Roscow comes to live with his Uncle Jerry, who runs a diner in a small New Jersey town. Chet is eager to make friends with a group of boys who swim at the local creek, and thrilled when they invite him to join them . . . until he comes face to face with a ferocious man-eater.

**7) I Survived #3: I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005.**This story focuses on Barry Tucker and his family, who live in the New Orlean’s Lower Ninth Ward, a neighborhood that had been flooded by a hurricane years before. The family plans to evacuate as Katrina is bearing down on New Orleans. But then Barry’s little sister Cleo gets sick, and the family has no choice but to hunker down at home. Barry is swept away by the flood waters, and crosses paths with a killer dog named Cruz. And through it all he learns that he is way braver than he ever imagined.

**8) I Survived #4: I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941.**Danny Crane is a New York City kid, hanging around gangsters while his mom works 2 jobs to support him. When Danny’s best friend Finn is hurt in an accident, Danny’s mom decides she has to get Danny away from the danger of New York. They move to Hawaii, and soon find themselves in the midst of the terrifying bombing attack.

**9) I Survived #5: I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906.**Leo is living all on his own in San Francisco, working selling newspapers and struggling to get by. When his lucky gold nugget is stolen by two young street thugs, Leo is determined to get it back. But then the ground starts the shake, and San Francisco is set afire.

**10) I Survived #6: I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001.**Nothing is more important to Lucas than football, but when he gets his third concussion, his parents decide it’s too dangerous for him to keep playing his favorite game. He is sure his Uncle Benny will convince his parents to change their minds, and he skips school to find Benny at the firehouse where he works. But then a terrible attack happens in New York City, and Lucas is caught in the center of one of the most terrifying days in modern American history.

**11) I Survived #7: I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863.**Thomas and his little sister Birdie have spent their whole lives as slaves on a farm in Virginia. It’s a hard life, but at least they are together. But then one day, men come to take Thomas away, and Thomas realizes he has no choice: he and Birdie must escape to the North. With slave hunters on their trail, they rush into the dark forest, beginning a journey they hope will lead to freedom. But soon they are swept up into the bloodiest battle in American history: The Battle of Gettysburg.

The I Survived books are appropriate for grades 2-5.

**12) Emma Jean Lazarus Fell out of a Tree.** Emma-Jean is a 7th grader at William Gladstone Middle School. Her best friends are her mom, her bird Henri, the school janitor Mr. Petrowski, and Vikram Adwani, a graduate student who lives on the third floor of Emma-Jean’s house. Emma-Jean is content in her world. She has no interest in becoming friends with the other girls in the seventh grade. Their lives are so messy. They’re always shrieking and crying and getting into fights. Emma-Jean is extremely logical, like her late beloved father, Eugene Lazarus, a mathematician who died in a car accident. But then one day, Emma-Jean finds kind and generous Colleen Pomerantz sobbing in the girls room, convinced that the meanest girl in school is trying to steal her best friend. Emma-Jean knows she shouldn’t get involved. But poor Colleen is so distraught. And Emma-Jean wonders: maybe she could help? Maybe her awesome powers of logic would enable her to solve Colleen’s problems? From this moment, Emma-Jean’s neatly ordered world begins to tilt, until it is turned totally upside down. But soon she connects with Colleen, and learns that the messy world of friendship is a world worth exploring.

**13) Emma Jean Lazarus Fell in Love.** The endearing, if not quirky, Emma-Jean Lazarus is back in the companion to Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree. When Emma-Jean thinks about asking Will Keeler to the Spring Fling dance, she gets a fluttering feeling in her heart. What would someone like Will say to someone like Emma-Jean? After all, Emma-Jean is a little different. Meanwhile, Emma- Jean’s best friend, Colleen, has a secret admirer. With the Spring Fling just days away, she asks Emma-Jean to figure out who he is so maybe then Colleen could ask him to the dance. It’s a perfect plan. But what Emma-Jean discovers could have consequences for everyone.

The Emma Jean books are appropriate for grades 4-5.

BOOKS BY TRINKA HAKES NOBLE:

14) **The Orange Shoes.** Nelly Porter’s love of learning is threatened by cruelty at the hands of her classmates.

15) **The People of Twelve Thousand Winters.** A story of the Lenni Lenape set in early America before the arrival of the first Europeans.

16) **A Christmas Spider’s Miracle.** Based on a Ukrainian folk tale, this heartwarming story of two mothers and an unexpected gift a spider gives to a peasant woman and her children.

17) **The Legend of the Cape May Diamond.** For thousands of years fragments of quartz have been carried down the Delaware River. Polished along the route, they dazzle like gemstones. Learn more about the history and legend of the Cape May Diamond.

18) **The Scarlet Stockings Spy.** As Young America stands on the very brink of its fight for freedom, even the smallest of citizens can play a part, and that the role of a patriot has nothing to do with age and everything to do with heart.

19) **The Last Brother: A Civil War Tale.** In July 1863 the bloodiest battle of the Civil War was fought outside the sleepy Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. The story of one small boy is told amidst the dramatic events of those early days of July.

20) **Apple Tree Christmas.**  A beloved Christmas tale brought to life by Trinka’s watercolor paintings, reveals the joy of a special present and the love shared by a father and daughter.

21) **The New Jersey Reader.**  Modeled after the popular primers of the 19th century, colorful illustrations and a variety of writing forms showcase the state’s rich heritage, natural charm and place in American history.

22) **Jimmy's Boa Bounces Back.** A pet boa constrictor wreaks havoc on a posh garden party.

23) **The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash.** When Jimmy's unusual pet accompanies him on his class trip, an ordinary jaunt to a farm turns into a hilarious, slapstick romp.

24) **Jimmy's Boa and the Big Splash Birthday Bash.** Jimmy's mother thought a goldfish wouldn't be a source of constant chaos like her son's boa constrictor. But trouble--and laughs--abound when Jimmy takes both animals to his birthday bash at SeaLand.

25) **Jimmy's Boa and the Bungee Jump Slam Dunk.** There's nothing ordinary about basketball practice when Meggie and her friends are involved, especially after Miss Peachtree takes over the gym for her dance lessons. When Jimmy refuses to dance with anybody but his pet boa constrictor, mayhem becomes the name of the game! Yes, Jimmy's boa is back-this time with a waltzing poodle and a herd of bouncing rabbits. Readers have courtside seats to witness the fancy, super-funny teamwork of Meggie, her friends, and even the stuffy Miss Peachtree. And with Jimmy's boa involved, basketball will never be the same!

26) **Meanwhile Back at the Ranch.** Looking for some diversion, a bored rancher drives to the town of Sleepy Gulch little knowing that some amazing things are happening to his wife and ranch during his absence.

The Jimmy’s Boa books are recommended for grades K-2.

All other books by Trinka Hakes Noble are recommended for ages 6-10.