

# Storytime Newsletter

Baker, Bradford, Union County Libraries

August – Children’s Vision & Learning Month

August 2016

**A word from the Vision Council...** “It may be common sense that poor vision interferes with a child’s ability to learn. But what is lesser known is that vision problems are the fourth most prevalent class of disability in the United States and one of the most prevalent conditions in childhood. This is an extremely important statistic considering that 80 percent of what children learn comes through their visual processing of information and that many children – nearly two in three according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – enter school without ever having had a vision screening.”

While learning occurs through a number of complex and interrelated processes, vision plays a key role. Many signs, symptoms, and behaviors associated with learning disabilities are similar to those caused by vision problems. This is why it is so important that a comprehensive vision examination be part of the interdisciplinary evaluation of all children who are failing to succeed in school.

The **5** most common signs that a vision problem may be interfering with your student’s ability to read and learn are:

1. Skips lines, rereads lines
2. Poor reading com-

prehension

3. Homework takes much longer than it should
4. Reverses letters like “b” into “d” when reading
5. Short attention span with reading and schoolwork

Children should be referred for a comprehensive eye exam whenever visual symptoms are noticed or if they are not achieving their potential. Many of these vision problems will not be detected during a school vision screening or limited vision assessment as part of a school physical or routine pediatric health evaluation. ....[covd.org](http://covd.org)

## Author of the Month

### Joanna Cole:

DOB: August 11, 1944

Joanna Cole loved science as a child. “I always enjoyed explaining things and writing reports for school. I had a teacher who was a little like

Ms. Frizzle. She loved her subject. Every week she had a child do an experiment in front of the room and I wanted to be that child every week,” she recalls. It’s no surprise that Cole’s favorite

book as a child was *Bugs, Insects, and Such*.

Ms. Cole has worked as an elementary school teacher, a librarian, and a children’s book editor. (continued on page 2)

### Storytimes at the Libraries

#### Union Co. Public Library

Summer Program  
August 4th  
Thursday—10am  
386-496-3432

**We’ve had a great summer.**

**Programs are over and will resume in September.**

**We’re planning a great series of storytimes for the fall season.**

**Check your library for a schedule.**

### TumbleBooks

Online book service, watch a picture book or read along with the audio.  
[www.newriver.lib.fl.us](http://www.newriver.lib.fl.us)

### Dial a Story

Stories for young children, changed weekly.

496-2542

or

1-888-4ATALE1

(1-888-428-2531)

# Books to Share

## Dinosaur Starts School

By: Pamela Duncan Edwards

"What would you do if on the very first day of school Dinosaur wasn't smiling his big, toothy dinosaur smile? You'd say, 'Don't worry, Dinosaur. School will be fun.'" So begins the story as a little boy helps his dinosaur friend overcome his fears of the first day of school. All sorts of questions that children might ask are addressed by the little boy - why does he have to go to school, what if he has to speak up and say his name, what if he doesn't like what they serve for lunch? His answers should calm the tummies of any young student.

## The Night Before Preschool

By: Natasha Wing

It's the night before preschool, and a little boy named Billy is so nervous he can't fall asleep. The friends he makes the next day at school give him a reason not to sleep the next night, either: he's too excited about going back!

## Splat the Cat

By: Rob Scotton

The fuzzy black feline is worried about his first day of school, and despite determined attempts to avoid the inevitable, he ends up there. School is a combination of fantastic revelations and baffling mysteries. Most puzzling of all for Splat is the news that cats

chase mice. He does not chase mice. In fact, he has a pet mouse whom he has packed in his lunchbox because he wants a friend with him on his first day. The sight of the mouse causes chaos, but proves fortuitous when Seymour saves the day by crawling through a small hole to unlock the milk pantry. Cheered by the fact that school is, in fact, wonderful, Splat excitedly returns on the second day.

## The Amazing Adventures of Bumblebee Boy

By: David Soman

When Sam is Bumblebee Boy, he likes to fly alone, using his imagination to battle dragons, pirates, and tigers. Sam's little brother, Owen, would like to play with him, but Owen doesn't have a cape or a mask, and Bumblebee Boy doesn't need his help. But when more aliens than Bumblebee Boy can handle land on the moon, will he be able to defeat them by himself? Through their imaginary adventures, Sam and Owen discover just how much fun a brother can be, and learn that there are times to play alone and times to play with others.

## The Couch Was a Castle

By: Ruth Ohi

For Burt and his little brother, spending time on the couch is anything but boring. After all, with a bit of imagina-

tion, a couch can go through some remarkable transformations. And so the boys ride the couch like a horse and envision a cowboy pursuit. Later the sofa doubles as a pirate ship battling stormy seas. But when some stage-couch theatrics end in tears, it's up to Burt to rescue his little brother's feelings... and restore the fun.

## If Kids Ruled the World

By: Linda Bailey

Every page features a child's dream come true: birthday cake would be good for us, beds would be for bouncing, every yard would have a lake, every tree would have a tree house. This is a wonderful book for sharing in storytime; it guarantees an abundance of oohs, aaahs, and even cheers and will rev up imaginations about all kinds of fun things kids might do if they were in charge.

*Thanks to Harriet, Children's Library Assistant at New River Public Library Cooperative, for providing content for this newsletter.*



# Author of the Month

(continued from page 1)

Combining her knowledge of children's literature with her love of science, she decided to write children's books. Her first book was *Cockroaches*, which she wrote because there had never been a book written about the insect before. "I had ample time to study the creature in my low-budget New York apartment!"

she says.

Since then she has written more than 90 nonfiction and fiction books for children, and she is the winner of the 1991 Washington Post/Children's Book Guild Nonfiction award for the body of her work, which also includes the ALA Notable Children's Book *How You Were Born, Bony-legs; Cars and How They Go*; and with Stephanie

Calmenson, The Gator Girls series.

Despite the hard work Ms. Cole insists that writing "is the greatest fun in the world." And the Magic School Bus books in particular provide the opportunity for Ms. Cole to combine the two things she loves most: science and humor.

.....scholastic.com

