

Storytime Newsletter

Baker, Bradford, Union County Libraries

February—Children's Dental Health Month

FEBRUARY 2015

Reports show that American students miss 51 million hours of school every year because of oral health problems. And students who are absent miss critical instruction time—especially in early grades where reading skills are an important focus and the building blocks of future learning. And students who have experienced recent oral health pain are four times more likely to have lower grade point averages than their counterparts who have not.

That's why NEA's Read Across America

and its sponsor, Renaissance Dental, are celebrating National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of good oral health. Parents and children are encouraged to brush their teeth for two minutes, two times per day, and read for 20 minutes as a way of building good oral health and literacy habits.

Kids can take charge of their teeth by taking these steps:

- ◆ Brush at least twice a day.
- ◆ Brush all of your teeth, not just the

front ones.

- ◆ Spend at least 2 minutes each time you brush.
- ◆ Use only toothbrushes with soft bristles.
- ◆ Learn how to floss your teeth.
- ◆ Brush your tongue to help keep your breath fresh.
- ◆ Visit the dentist twice a year.
- ◆ Avoid sugar and eat lots of fruits and vegetables and drink water instead of soda.
- ◆ And don't forget to smile.neg.org



Author of the Month

Mo Willems: Birthday — February 11, 1968

Mo Willems, the son of Dutch immigrants, grew up in New Orleans. He spent much of his youth telling stories and drawing. Willems especially loved read-

ing "Peanuts" comics and then sketching Snoopy and Charlie Brown himself. "I even wrote a letter to Charles Schulz," Willems recalls, "saying that I wanted his job when he died." During

high school, Willems acted in plays and started doing standup routines at comedy clubs.

After high school, Willems traveled abroad and per- (continued on page 2)

Storytimes at the Libraries

Bradford Co. Public Library

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays in February
10am and 1pm

Baby Rhymetime
Fridays in February
11am

904-368-3911

Union Co. Public Library

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays in February
10am and 1pm

386-496-3432

TumbleBooks

Online book service,
watch a picture book
or read along
with the audio.

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

Who Will Be My Valentine This Year?

By: Jerry Pallotta

A Valentine's Day story about finding your own special sweetheart. Tomorrow is February 14th and Hippo is looking for a valentine, but all of the animals she asks-Leopard, Dolphin, Butterfly, Elephant and more-give reasons as to why they aren't good matches for her. Will Hippo have to celebrate Valentine's Day alone?

Henry In Love



By: Peter McCarty

Henry the cat is in love with Chloe, the cute little bunny in the back row. On this particular day, his mother makes blueberry muffins for her sons to take for lunch, but Henry saves his for afternoon snack as a special treat. He is the typical little boy who is short on words but big on action. He does a forward roll to impress Chloe, but she bests him with an impressive cartwheel. Later, the teacher reassigns seats and Chloe moves up next to Henry. At snack time, she asks him what he has, and he shows her his big, beautiful blueberry muffin. Henry, who has yet to say a word to his favorite little girl, is surprised but pleased when Chloe thanks him and takes it. It seems that all is fair in love and kindergarten.

Author of the Month

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formed standup comedy in London. He later moved to New York, where he studied film and then switched to animation. Willems spent the first part of his career writing and animating for children's television. For nine years, he worked on Sesame Street, where he won six Emmy Awards and developed characters such as Suzy Kabloozie. Wil-

The Day It Rained Hearts

By: Felicia Bond

Young Cornelia is walking along when it starts raining hearts. Catching them in her hand and in her yellow slicker, she takes them home to make valentines. Because each heart is different, she is able to make very special cards for her special friends.



Little Penguin's Tale

By: Audrey Wood

As Grand Nanny is describing the antics of a young penguin of long ago, Little Penguin sneaks off for adventures of his own. He slides up and down icy mountains, dances with the wonderfully wild gooney birds and joins in the merriment at the madcap Walrus Polar Club; his adventures parallel those of Grand Nanny's story. Then comes the sad part of her tale-- Little Penguin is eaten by a whale. But her charges wail and weep until she offers a new ending: Little Penguin escapes.

Sergio Makes A Splash

By: Edal Rodriguez

Sergio is a penguin. He loves fish, soccer, and water. He loves drinking wa-

ter, bathing in water, spraying water, just about anything with water! But he has one big problem; he can't swim. So when his class takes a field trip to the ocean, Sergio must decide whether he should face his fear or avoid something he loves.



Dance!

By: Tiziana Bendall-Brunello

After reading that there will be a dance at the zoo, Little Penguin tries to learn some steps from the other animals but neither Monkey's samba, Flamingo's ballet nor the hippos' line dance seems quite right for him.



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

lems later created Sheep in the Big City for the Cartoon Network and The Off-Beats for Nickelodeon.

For five years, Willems tried to write and illustrate children's books. After a number of rejections, Willems' simple doodle of a pigeon attracted the eye of an editor. This pigeon would become the star of his first book, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the*

Bus!, which won a Caldecott Honor in 2004. The following year, *Knuffle Bunny* won another Caldecott Honor, which further solidified Willems' new career as a children's book author and illustrator.

Mo Willems writes and illustrates from his home in Brooklyn, New York, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

...readingrockets.org