

TULSA CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY PRESENTS AWARDS

At a luncheon on November 10, the Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy honored the Community Champion and Changemaker award recipients. Forrest Alton, a national leader in teen pregnancy prevention from South Carolina, was the keynote speaker. Community Champion Awards were presented to Youth Services of Tulsa (YST) for their PregNot program, accepted by Tania Pryce, assistant director of YST, and the Tulsa Carrera Program, which was accepted Dr. Kirt Hartzler, Union Public School Superintendent. An inaugural Community Changemaker Award was also presented to Sharon Gallagher, director of collaborative initiatives at Tulsa Area United Way.

While Oklahoma is second only to Arkansas in the number of teen births, progress has been made. Tulsa County's teen birth rate has declined 19 percent over the past two years and 47 percent since 1991. The Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy hopes to reduce the teen birth rate by 30 percent by 2020 and to ultimately have teen pregnancy become a non-issue in Oklahoma.

For more information about Tulsa Campaign, resources for teens, parents and educators, go TulsaCampaign.org.



(PICTURED FROM LEFT) SHARLA OWENS (TULSA CAMPAIGN), SHARON GALLAGHER (TULSA AREA UNITED WAY), DR. KIRT HARTZLER (UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS), KEVIN BURR (TULSA CARRERA PROGRAM), TANIA PRYCE (YOUTH SERVICES OF TULSA) AND ALICE BLUE (TULSA CARRERA PROGRAM)

LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ANNE V. ZARROW AWARD

New York Times best-selling author Laurie Halse Anderson is the winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2017 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. She will accept the award at a public presentation at Hardy Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St., Friday, May 5, 2017 at 7 p.m. She also will present awards to winners of the 2017 Young People's Creative Writing Contest at the ceremony.

Tulsa County teachers are invited to attend Mr. Henry's Books Teacher Workshop, Jan. 28, 2017, 9-11 a.m., at Central Library, Fifth Street and Denver Avenue, Pochontas Greaddington Learning and Creativity Center. Registration is \$10 and includes a continental breakfast, 50 copies of *Chains* by Anderson and lesson plans on how to incorporate the work of Anderson in school subjects. One lucky participant will win a classroom visit from Anderson on May 5, 2017. For more information on registering for the workshop, call TulsaKids Magazine, 918.582.8504.

Anderson is being recognized for writing more than 18 books of fiction and nonfiction for "children of all ages" that address life's challenges with honesty, humor and sensitivity.

The Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature gives formal recognition, on behalf of the Tulsa County community, to a nationally acclaimed author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature for young adults. The award, presented by the Tulsa Library Trust, consists of a \$7,500 cash prize and an engraved crystal book.

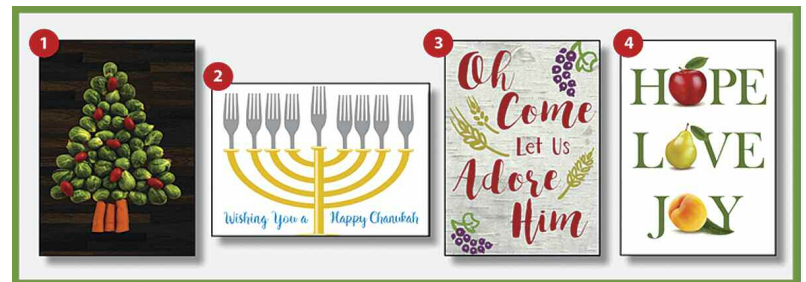
For more information on the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature or Mr. Henry's Books Teacher Workshop, call the AskUs Hotline, 918.549.7323, or visit the library's website, www.tulsalibrary.org.

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT FEED HOPE

The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma invites individuals, families or businesses to share the gift of food with people in need by purchasing holiday cards or by using the food bank's Holiday Smoked Meats program. For every dollar, the Food Bank can provide four meals.

Choose from Christmas, Chanukah, general holiday and New Year's cards with customized greetings. Cards can be ordered online at okfoodbank.org or by contacting Katy Dorais at 918.936.4506 or kdorais@okfoodbank.org.

The smoked meats program lets you choose from a selection of meats smoked by the food bank's professional chefs for your holiday meal or party. For more information, go to okfoodbank.org or contact Deb Hughes at 918.936.4507 or dhughes@okfoodbank.org.



TPS MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN NOW

According to the Tulsa Public Schools website (www.tulsaschools.org), the application process for magnet school transfers began on Nov. 14, 2016 and will continue through Jan. 20, 2017.

Schools include the lottery magnets and the criteria-based magnets. A list of schools along with information on application materials needed for each school is available on the TPS website. Some schools require that parents or guardians tour the school; some require an entrance examination, interview or audition; criteria-based magnets use grades, test scores, attendance and teacher recommendation.

Applications are accepted electronically. For complete information, go to www.tulsaschools.org. Questions may be addressed to the transfer office at the Enrollment Center, 2819 S. New Haven or call 918.746.6138, 918.746.6335 or 918.746.6823.

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looking for a school that she felt would give her children a good education and that she also felt comfortable with as a parent.

"Both my husband and I work very hard to raise them [our children] well and want to give them opportunities that we didn't have," she said. "I think they are getting a good education at Saints Peter and Paul. They have a lot of friends there, and the teachers stay on them to make sure that they are doing their work. If I have a problem or a question, I just walk over and ask the principal or the teacher, and they help me. It's a very caring place. Not every place is like that."

In fact, the school has a long history of involvement with the neighborhood. It was established in 1951 by three Dominican Sisters who sought to provide a Catholic education to children in the area. Over the years, the school has continued serving families who have been unable to afford the cost of sending their children to the school.

"The goal of living in a more civil, equitable and safer society could largely be achieved by better educated citizens. Be it in Tulsa, Chicago, London, Baghdad, Mumbai, Johannesburg or any other place on our globe. It starts with preschool and continues through all facets of educational programs," Martin said. "Here, we are working with families that live in a low socio-economic environment and we are giving them an education that is very personal and challenging. We ask them each day to rise above the difficulties they face and look forward to the future where a solid education can truly make a difference in their lives. An education that, in

many cases, their parents did not have."

Martin and his staff work to create an atmosphere of hope and success at Saints Peter and Paul. That atmosphere translates to a labor of love for everyone who is involved, from the teachers and faculty to the families that the school assists. Many of the school's improvement projects, such as renovations to the gym and the construction of a cafeteria, were completed by parents who volunteered their own time.

"It is very motivating to work with them [the teachers]," Martin said. "I look around some days and see all the incredible things they're doing in the classroom, and it makes me proud to be associated with the teachers here. I couldn't do it without the help of all the teachers here and especially the school secretary, Maria Walsh."

Like the rest of his staff, Martin takes on many roles. Besides his duties as principal, he acts as an advisor, fundraiser, coach, curriculum developer, and bus driver for field trips.

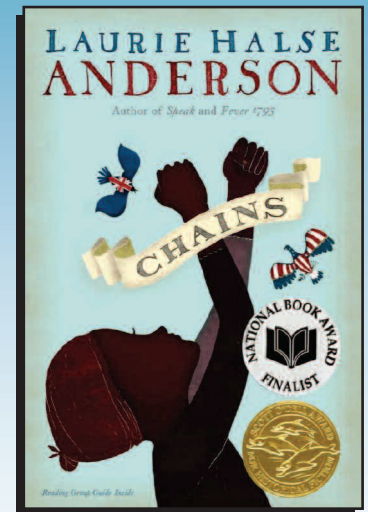
"Our situation is very challenging," he said. "We do not have extra of anything: extra staff, extra uniforms, extra textbooks, extra desks or chairs. This spirit of working together and supporting each other instead of passing the buck to somebody else has made our community very strong and caring. I'm motivated by the fact that we do so much to help these kids and give them a chance to succeed. We are doing great things on the corner of Pine and Sheridan!"

Mr. Henry's Books TEACHER WORKSHOP

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 • 9-11 a.m.
Pocahontas Greadington Learning and Creativity Center
Central Library • Fifth Street and Denver Avenue

REGISTER NOW AND RECEIVE

- Continental breakfast
- 50 copies of *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson, winner of the 2017 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature
- Inspirational and educational speakers
- Lesson plans on how to use the works of Laurie Halse Anderson for a variety of school subjects
- One lucky participant will win a visit by Laurie Halse Anderson to his or her classroom on May 5, 2017.



Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County. This workshop is recommended for middle and high school teachers. CEU available.

Registrations are limited and must be received by Jan. 23

Mr. Henry's Books is a program of the Tulsa City-County Library, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.



REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee \$10

(check or money order made payable to TulsaKids Magazine)

Name _____ Grade Level _____

School _____ School Phone _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Registration fees are nonrefundable, but teachers may send a substitute if unable to attend.

Include payment and mail to:

TulsaKids Magazine • 1622 S. Denver Ave. • Tulsa, OK 74119-4233

Saints Peter and Paul School has on-going need that is greater than in past years. Donations are always welcomed and appreciated. To help the school reach its current fundraising goal, donations may be sent to Saints Peter and Paul School at 1436 N. 67th East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74115. For more information, call the school at 918.836.2165.

BY LAURA RAPHAEL, MA, MLIS

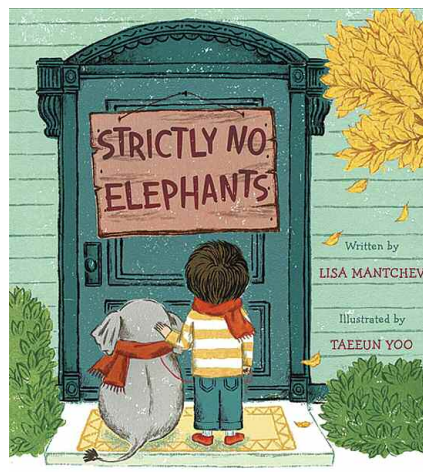
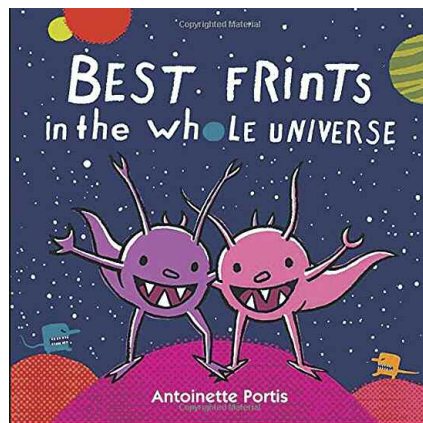
best children's books of 2016

As Children's Services Coordinator for the Tulsa City-County Library, I am in the happy position of reading a LOT of children's books every year, particularly picture books. Here are some of my favorites from 2016 that are worthy to end up under your holiday tree... You also can check out these great reads from any Tulsa City-County Library location.

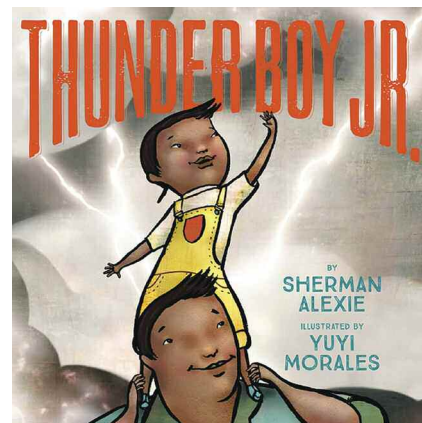
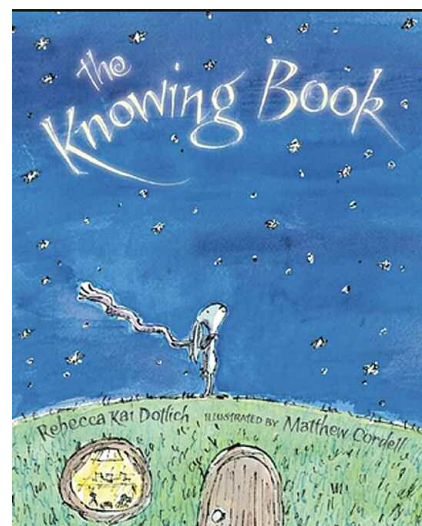
Best Frints in the Whole Universe written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis. Portis can always be counted on for mind-bendingly colorful illustrations combined with an unusual humor. Two aliens (Yelfred and Omek) of planet Boborp may be best frints (friends, in the Boborpi vernacular), but they don't always get along. See how they manage their disagreements while still being frints. Children who are starting to read will delight in the made-up language.

Strictly No Elephants written by Lisa Mantchev, illustrated by Taeun Yoo. A young boy cares for his tiny pet elephant, carrying his pachyderm friend over sidewalk cracks (they are scary!) and dressing him warmly in a matching red scarf. But when they attempt to enter a meeting of pet owners, they – and those with other unusual pets – are turned away. The answer makes for a sweet and heartwarming story about acceptance and friendship.

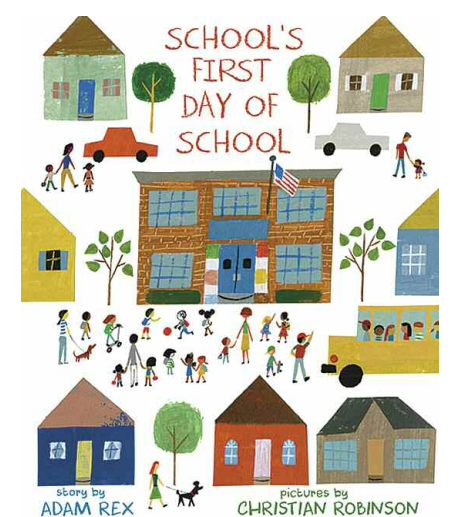
The Knowing Book written



by Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Matthew Cordell. While this gentle picture book appears to start in the material realm (standing on a grassy yard and looking at the night sky), it ends in a philosophical exploration of much deeper issues: truth, the magic of



the world, and what it means to be alive. A good one to introduce to your natural philosophers and discover what amazing thoughts they carry around every day.



Thunder Boy, Jr. written by Sherman Alexie and illustrated by Yuyi Morales. A name is a powerful thing, as Little Thunder – son of Big Thunder – discovers. Exquisite illustrations, humor that is both gentle and incisive, and a larger thematic look at identity and family that will resonate with many children.

School's First Day of School written by Adam Rex, illustrated by Christian Robinson. There are many wonderful books about children getting ready for the first day of school... but what happens when it's the first day for a newly built school? A clever twist on an old idea, complete with the school being nervous, making new friends, and getting used to the rhythm and rewards of daily school.