

READING PARTNERS RECEIVES GRANT FROM LIFE.CHURCH

Last month at a Winter Reading Celebration at Park Elementary School, Life.Church honored Reading Partners, a Tulsa non-profit that places volunteers in schools to provide one-on-one tutoring to children, with a \$20,000 grant. Last year, Life.Church chose Reading Partners as one of their local missions after learning about their goal of providing one-on-one tutoring to improve literacy skills in Tulsa Public Schools. Now, more than 50 volunteers from Life.Church Jenks and Life.Church Broken Arrow are serving as tutors in Tulsa-area schools through Reading Partners.

CASH FOR CREATIVE WRITING: ENTER TCCL'S WRITING CONTEST

One thing is missing from the bookshelves of the world: your perspective. Write your own story. Be your own author.

Local wordsmiths are invited to enter the 39th Annual Adult Creative Writing Contest for a chance to win cash. The annual event is sponsored by The Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries.

The contest is open to any person 18 years or older who lives, works, attends school in Tulsa County or has a nonresident Tulsa City-County Library card. **The deadline to submit entries is Jan. 31, 2016.**

Submissions of unpublished original text are welcomed in these categories:

Poetry – with a 400-word limit

Informal Essay – with a 5,000-word limit

Children's Fiction – with a 3,000-word limit

Short Story – with a 5,000-word limit

A \$100 cash prize and a certificate are awarded to the best works in each category. Second-place winners receive a \$50 cash prize and a certificate. Certificates are awarded to those receiving honorable mention. Individuals may submit one entry per category. Each entry must have a separate entry form and a \$6 entry fee.

All winners and participants are invited to the awards during a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on April 9, 2016, at Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford. The keynote speaker for the ceremony is Jay Cronley, a Tulsa World columnist and author of the novels *Quick Change*, *Funny Farm*, *Good Vibes* and *Fall Guy*. Cronley became a member of the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame in 2002 and entered the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2014. First-place winners from each category will have the opportunity to read a short selection from his or her winning entry.

Entry forms, with a complete set of rules, are available at all TCCL locations or online at www.tulsalibrary.org/friends. For more information on the Adult Creative Writing Contest, call Gretchen Hannefield, Friends liaison and library volunteer coordinator, 918.549.7408.

REGENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL EXPANDS

Regent Preparatory School of Oklahoma is making room for the future.

In December, the classical Christian school broke ground on the new part of its campus at 8621 South Memorial Drive.

Phase I of the \$8.5 million expansion will include new football and baseball fields, as well as improvements to the existing library and fine arts facilities.

Currently, 470 students in grades pre-K through 12 attend Regent, which opened in 2000.

TULSA MAGNET AND LOTTERY SCHOOL DEADLINES APPROACH

Tulsa Public Schools is now accepting magnet program (K-12) applications for the 2016-2017 school year. All applications must be completed and submitted online. Tours for elementary magnet programs are mandatory. To schedule your tour, you must call the school directly.

TPS has a long tradition of magnet schools. Students are required to complete an application process to be considered for acceptance into a magnet school or program. Some magnet schools have a competitive entrance process requiring an entrance examination, interview or audition. Other magnet schools use a lottery system. Admissions to the three types of magnet programs are as follows:

Interest Magnets: Student interest is the determining factor for admission to four high schools offering a wide variety of specific programs. Interest magnet schools include:

- Central
- Hale
- McLain
- Webster High Schools.

Lottery Magnets: Students are selected based on a random drawing from each geographic quadrant of the city to fill available spaces. The lottery schools include:

Elementary schools:

- Dual Language Program
- Eisenhower International School
- Mayo Demonstration School
- Zarrow International School

Middle/junior high schools

- Monroe Demonstration School
- Thoreau Demonstration Academy
- Will Rogers College Junior High School

High schools

- Will Rogers College High

Academic Magnets: Students are selected on the basis of grades, test scores, attendance, and teacher recommendation. Academic magnet schools include:

- Carver Middle School
- Edison Middle School
- Booker T. Washington High School
- Edison Preparatory High School
- Tulsa Engineering Academy at Memorial High School

Applications for TPS magnet schools for 2016-2017 will be accepted November 9 - January 15. You can find the online application and more information at tulsaschools.org.

Tulsa Charter Schools

Charter Schools are publicly funded schools that operate independently from some of the regulations of the city or state imposed upon regular public schools, but must maintain state accreditation. They are open to all children, do not have special entrance requirements and do not charge tuition.

For information about the schools and how and when to apply, contact each individual school. For a complete list of Oklahoma charter schools, go to sde.ok.gov.

Tulsa schools include Discovery School of Tulsa, 4821 S. 72nd E. Ave., 918.960.3131, www.discoveryok.org; Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences, 3441 E. Archer, 918.828.7727, tsas.org; Dove Science Academy, 280 S. Memorial Dr., 918.834.3946, dsatulsa.org; KIPP, 1661 E. Virgin St., 918.794.8652, kipptulsa.org; Deborah Brown Community School, 2 S. Elgin, 918.425.1407, www.dbcschool.org; Tulsa Legacy Charter School; College Bound Academy, 2424 S. 101st E. Ave., www.collegeboundacademy.org; Tulsa Honor Academy, 2525 S. 101st East Ave, 918.833.9420, www.tulsahonoracademy.org; Collegiate Hall, 1142 E. 56th St, 918.202.8526, collegiatehall.org;

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BY JOHN FANCHER, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Oklahoma author on Sequoyah list

Each year the Oklahoma Library Association presents the Sequoyah Book Award, honoring the best books for children, as well as intermediate and high school students.

A combination of public and private school librarians throughout Oklahoma choose the masterlist for each age group: children, grades 3 through 5; intermediate, grades 6 through 8; and high school, grades 9 through 12. The masterlists, each containing 15 selections, are created to appeal to students in a variety of situations, interests and reading levels.

First presented in 1959 to Fred Gibson for his timeless tale, *Old Yeller*, authors have cherished receiving the state-wide award because it is voted on and chosen by young readers.

Now through the end of March, students are encouraged to read at least three selections from the list before casting their vote. Follow this link to see the masterlist for each age group: <http://www.oklibs.org/?page=01Ssequoyah>.

Among the authors on the intermediate masterlist is Oklahoman Tim Tingle, selected for his book *How I Became A Ghost*. He is the first Oklahoma Choctaw to be selected as a masterlist author. *How I Became A Ghost* was published by The RoadRunner Press, an Oklahoma book pub-

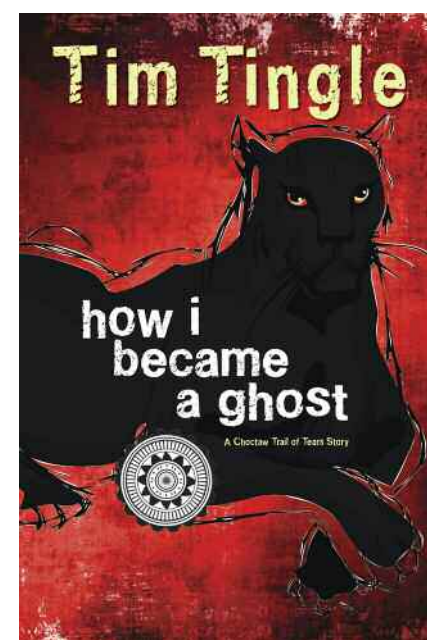


SEQUOYAH BOOK AWARD MASTERLIST FEATURES OKLAHOMA CHOCTAW AUTHOR TIM TINGLE.

lisher.

How I Became A Ghost is the first in a planned trilogy told

through the perspective of a young Choctaw boy, Isaac. He recounts his tribe's removal from



the only land its people have ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost – one with the ability to help those he left behind. Isaac leads a remarkable group of Choctaw comrades: a tough-minded teenage girl, a shape-shifting panther boy, a lovable 5-year-old ghost who only wants her mom and dad to be happy, and Isaac's talking dog, Jumper.

Tingle is a storyteller and award-winning author of books for children, teens and adults. In 2005, he was selected as the featured author for Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, for his book, *Walking the Choctaw Road: Stories From Red People Memory*.

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This book features 12 stories with a mix of historical accounts, traditional lore and tales from everyday life. Tingle collected stories through interviews with Choctaw tribal elders. Told in chronological order, the stories range from the days when most Choctaws were living in Mississippi to the Trail of Tears.

"My dad and his brothers and sisters told story after story of our family surviving the Trail of Tears," recalled Tingle. "John Carnes, my great (x4) grandfather was 10 years old when his town was burned to the ground and the journey began. It seemed every weekend we children were treated to various versions of John's story."

His first children's book, *Crossing Bok Chitto*, earned more than 20 state and national awards, including Best Children's Book from the American Library Association. It also was named an Editor's Choice by the New York Times Books Review.

Writing Choctaw-themed books for nearly 20 years, Tingle is fulfilling a lifelong dream of writing.

"To be included on the Sequoyah Masterlist, and the first Choctaw to achieve that honor, is a humbling and encouraging truckload of logs upon the fire of my work," he said. "As the logs tumble to the ground, I hope to survive and complete 20 books in the *How I Became A Ghost* series; that's my goal. I'm 67. Possible? My mom is 94."

Book two in Tingle's new series, *When A Ghost Talks, Listen*, is set for publication by The Road-Runner Press in February 2016.

To read any of Tingle's books, and other Sequoyah Book Award Masterlist selections, visit any Tulsa City-County Library location. TCCL and libraries throughout the state feature special displays to encourage students to read and vote for their favorite Sequoyah Book Award finalist.



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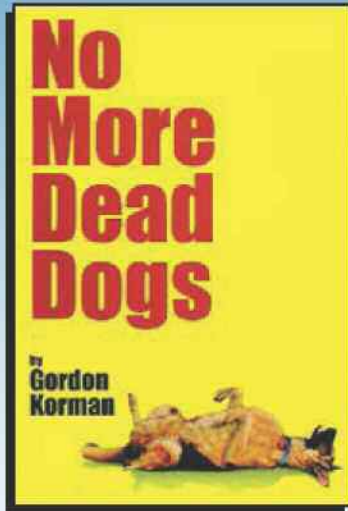
All events held on campus
Learn more at ParkviewBaptist.org or email
mloftis@parkviewbaptist.org

Mr. Henry's Books TEACHER WORKSHOP

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 • 9 a.m. to noon
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- Inspirational and educational speakers
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- One lucky participant will win a visit by Gordon Korman to their classroom on May 6, 2016.



Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County. This workshop is recommended for fourth- through eighth-grade teachers.

Registrations are limited and must be received by Jan. 16

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

college readiness."

Sharples said that the level of discourse among the faculty and the way teachers interacted with students drew him to TSAS. He had transitioned from the mental health profession to teaching through Teach for America in Kansas City, a difficult assignment that had him rethinking his decision to teach. Sharples said he felt under pressure at the Kansas City school to change quickly and to see results quickly.

"Here, we're trying to build something that lasts and takes time," he said. "When I wanted to start teaching, this is what I imagined."

TSAS parent Shelley Faust, who spends countless volunteer hours at the school, has two children at TSAS, a junior and a freshman, whom she previously home-schooled.

"I was so pleased," Faust said. "There was an atmosphere of respect from the beginning. Parents and teachers want kids to succeed, and they don't put them in a box. Teachers listen to the kids. Problems are handled quickly and well."

Faust also likes the 70-minute class periods and individualized instruction. "You can really get into a project or a deeper discussion with more time in class."

While TSAS only has one sport, cross country, Faust said her children have many choices that interest them. Besides Key Club and National Honor Society, and a robust jazz band and fine arts program, students establish their own clubs such as knitting, social justice, Anime or robotics clubs. Teachers work to get to know what interests each student, feeling that it is important for adolescents to find and pursue passions.

Above all, Faust emphasized that students have the freedom to ask any question and to be accepted. "I come from a Christian conservative background," she said, pointing out that she has learned to be less judgmental since her children have been at-

tending TSAS. "I want my kids to learn how to get along with all kinds of people. Whether they have blue hair or whatever, you need to remember to respect them because they're human beings, and don't just judge them by how they look. They've made good friends, and it's made my kids more assured about who they are."

TSAS faculty also helps students navigate their high school years with college in mind. Each student is paired with an advisor his or her freshman year through graduation.

Addy says her TSAS advisor has helped guide her through planning for college, and she is looking forward to a bright future.

"I've never been this excited about graduating, about going to college," Addy said, a big smile lighting up her face, her voice full of enthusiasm. "I want to help people. I want to be something in this world."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a United States government program created in 1982 to recognize public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. In 2015, 285 public schools were honored. Oklahoma schools included Carnegie Elementary in Carnegie; Flower Mound Elementary in Lawton; Harding Fine Arts Academy in Oklahoma City; Schwartz Elementary in Oklahoma City; and Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences, Tulsa.
www2.ed.gov

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For incoming 9th graders
December 1 – February 12
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday,
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INCOMING 7TH MEETINGS

For incoming 7th graders
November 12, 6:00 PM
January 14, 6:00 PM

OPEN HOUSES

For incoming 9th – 12th graders
January 19, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
February 4, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ALL GRADES

February 12



The Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences (TSAS) is a tuition-free public charter school in Tulsa, OK serving grades 9-12. Our mission is to provide a liberal arts, college preparatory curriculum for high school students through innovative teaching methods focused on developing individuals.

The curriculum at TSAS is rigorous and college preparatory. Advanced Placement classes are emphasized, and graduation requirements exceed the state's requirements. In addition to its rigorous college prep environment, TSAS offers visual art, jazz band, choir, speech, debate and photography. Enrollment is capped at 375 students for the 2016-17 school year, if there are more students applying for any grade than available positions, a lottery will be held.

TSAS.ORG/APPLY

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