

Our *Little Doctors* take a moment for a picture after receiving a certificate from our PTA for their help with our Blood Drive!

Weeks of March 19th - April 16th

A Message from the Principal Stacey Bernstein

Spring officially arrives on March 20th, but it seems like warmer weather and sunny days are finally upon us! We have been able to get our students outside a few days this week for some of their physical education classes and recess periods. The children were so excited to be able to play outdoors!

As the weather improves, please be sure that your children have the proper attire to safely participate in outdoor recess. Students will not be able to play on the "big toy" or any other playground equipment without shoes that are secured to their feet (no flip-flops, loose sandals, etc...). Sneakers or closed toe

shoes are required for outdoor play. Keep in mind that loose jewelry or sweatshirts with strings at the neck can also pose a safety hazard when playing outdoors. Thanks for your cooperation in making the spring season a happy and safe one!

Future Otsego
Happenings

2012

Week of April 23rd -

New York State Testing-
Grades 3-5 Math

Our Agenda

March 19th -

- BOE Meeting at Vanderbilt, 8 pm

March 22nd -

- PTA Founder's Day Dinner

March 26th - March 30th

- Literary Festival Week
 - March 29th Literary Festival Family Night

March 30 -

- 3rd Marking Period Ends

April 3rd -

- PTA Executive Meeting, 6:30 pm
- PTA General Meeting, 7:30 pm

April 4th -

- Elementary Report Cards available online

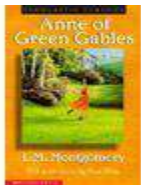
April 5th - 13th - Spring Recess

April 17-19 -

- NY State Testing-Grades 3-5 ELA

Timeless Chapter Books

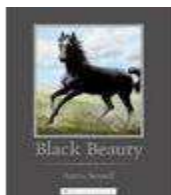
Do you remember the first book you started and couldn't put down? Introduce your child to those beloved books and series and connect them to generations of reading for pleasure.



Anne of Green Gables

by Lucy Maud Montgomery

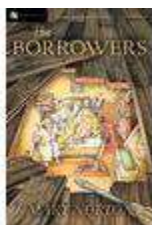
In this classic story, eleven-year-old Anne is thrilled when she finally finds a home at Green Gables after years of not having a real family. Due to her temper and incessant talking, will Anne be allowed...



Black Beauty

by Anna Sewall

Told from the point of view of Black Beauty, this classic tale follows the magnificent horse's adventures as a colt on a country squire's estate through his years as a London cab horse.



The Borrowers

by Mary Norton

Homily, Pod, and Arrietty live in a fantastic world underneath the kitchen. Through this award-winning book, explore the life and dangers of being a Borrower. How do all those precious objects disappear?...

Thank you.....

- Andrea Feledy and Edit Deljanin for a fabulous book fair!
- Liana Johnson, Tedra Grant, Melissa Schwartz, Ricky Martorella, Nicole Baggio and all parent volunteers for a terrific talent show.
- Karla Hofsiss, Kerry Frain and all the parent volunteers for our *Happy Everything* sale!

The World of Kids' Chapter Books

Which kids' chapter books are perfect for your child?

As your child transitions from a beginning reader who needs to sound out each simple word to a more advanced reader who is starting to decode faster and follow longer and more complicated stories, kids' chapter books become the reading material of choice. But kids' chapter books come in lots of different styles with various kinds of content — how do you know which are just-right for your young reader? Use this guide to match your child with the perfect book.

What exactly are kids' chapter books?

Early readers focus on very short books that are light on text and heavy on pictures and illustrations. As they become more confident, children can transition to kids' chapter books — stories that are long enough to be divided into chapters, but not as long or complicated as a novel. Chapter books still feature illustrations, but fewer than early readers' picture books. Generally speaking, children become ready to transition to kids' chapter books at around age 7 or 8.

- **For independent readers**

Children who took an active role in the read-alouds you shared — holding the book, flipping the pages herself, memorizing parts of the story — are likely to be enthusiastic about diving into the world of kids' chapter books. They need very little encouragement or supervision — just point them toward the books and get out of the way! Independent readers will devour pretty much anything, but you know your child's tastes. For fans of tense thrillers, recommend some Gordon Korman; kids who prefer more familiar settings, like classrooms and hallways, could try Sara Pennypacker and her Clementine series. Also see our book list [Books of Interest to Independent Readers](#) for more tips.

- **For reluctant readers**

Even if you've been a passionate reader to your child throughout the early years, sometimes it takes a little extra to show her the joys of reading for pleasure. If trips to the library are producing groans in your 1st or 2nd grader, don't despair. It's perfectly normal for children to struggle with reading once the books become longer and harder to follow. Try introducing your reluctant reader to series, like the Junie B. Jones or Magic Tree House books. Once your child knows the basic structure and characters, it's easier to get into the story. And they tend to become addictive! Find a list of series [here](#) to get started.

- **Classics to share**

One of the great joys of kids' chapter books is in sharing the books you loved as a child with your newly independent reader. It's impossible to forget the first time you read the Boxcar Children series or *Charlotte's Web*, and now you can reread it along with your child, discovering all over again what made you a book-lover. Don't be afraid to keep reading books aloud with your child! Try our [Timeless Chapter Books](#) list to jog your memory.