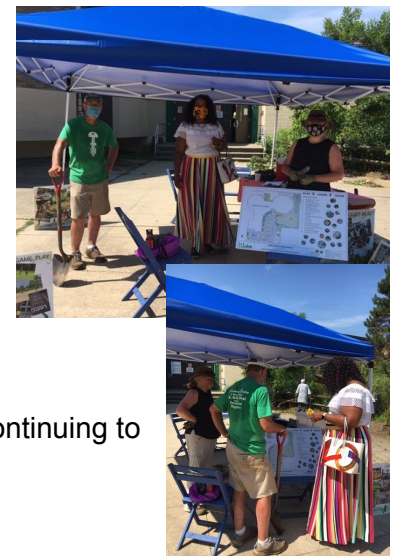


KELLY LIBRARY UPDATE -- Early August, 2020



MESSAGE FROM CORINNE: Fellow Volunteers, Supporters and Friends, We've all been watching the evolving Philly school plans for this coming year, no one more so than our Volunteers, Doris Heise and Janet Boff. Since our schools went virtual last March, and mindful of Covid-19, our two retired school librarians have been exploring alternative solutions for this year's Library Program. See the update on the [Library Committee's](#) ideas, one idea based on Lynn's "Books on the Go" summer project. As soon as our programs are finalized and approved by Kelly Administration, we will share the details with you. We hope you will consider participating in any of these endeavors that we are able to adapt to safety protocols.

On July 22nd, I visited Dennis Barnebey and his team at the beautiful Kelly Green Meadow, and was joined by Lynn, Mumina and Janet. Mumina braved the heat and joined in the gardening efforts! We were thrilled to have an impromptu chat with [Dr. Pressley](#), seen with Dennis in these photos. Dr. Pressley is a huge advocate for Reading and for Community, and we know she will strengthen both in her vision for Kelly. She is looking forward to heading a school with a library program, is excited by our Program and the collection we have created at Kelly. We left feeling very gratified that our Library Program will continue to thrive (despite Coronavirus) and we also are very excited to have Dr. Pressley at the helm!



We've had some wonderful feedback from you on our Update. Thank you for continuing to support our efforts to maintain our connection during these extraordinary times. Stay safe, Corinne

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

[Philadelphia schools to reopen fully online after board of education approves plan](#)

Philasd.org: [Coronavirus](#)

BOOKS ON THE GO: Lynn has been in contact with Kelly Lemberger, Executive Vice President of Literacy, Education, and Training Initiatives, Boys & Girls Club of Philadelphia, to organize deliveries of books to two more campsites. Additionally, as part of the [Laundromat Library League](#), Lynn delivers books every two weeks to the Big G Laundry at 162 West Chelton Avenue in Germantown. The Laundromat Library League makes children's books available in laundromats and similar sites in which children and caregivers spend time waiting. Children and caregivers are invited to enjoy a book, take it home, and eventually pass it on to another child.



LIBRARY COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Library Committee is discussing various ways we can meet the reading needs of our students, given the District's plans to open virtually. Ebooks for older grades and distribution of easy readers during food distribution are possibilities. As we know, research proves that reading for pleasure, and especially reading fiction, is so important! In fact, the best predictor of future education achievement and life success is reading ability - or, more significantly, being an engaged reader at an early age. **READING EQUALS SUCCESS** and we are eager to adapt our program to keep Kelly Kids reading! We are also thinking of creative, safe ways we can begin cataloging books to prepare for the days after Covid.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Meet Phyllis Stickney, a member of the Steering Committee and founder of Book Buddies. She states, "After retiring from a thirty-five year teaching career with the School District of Phila. in 2002 and spending the next dozen years helping to raise grandchildren, I was ready for another venture when Rochelle Tormollen, clerk of Abington Friends Meeting Peace and Social Justice committee, asked me to contact Penny Colgan-Davis about Germantown Friends Partnership with J. B. Kelly school library. The rest is history. Penny asked me to start a reading buddies program with her. Two years ago, I became the first reading buddy. This past year, there were four. I look forward to continuing RB when we return to an in-school program." Phyllis' experience as a teacher and her level headed approach to working with children has been invaluable to us all.



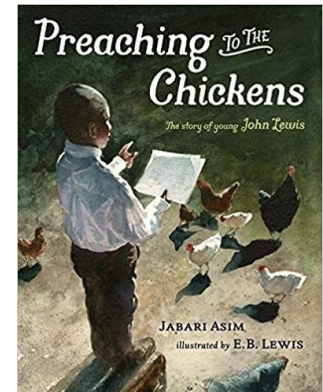
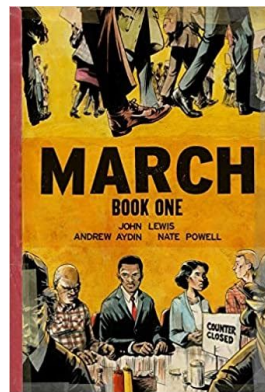
READING BUDDIES: This program, inspired by Penny and spearheaded by Phyllis, began in 2018/2019 when Corinne presented Phyllis' proposal to the Principal. Every Friday morning for six months in addition to her Tuesday commitment, Phyllis worked one-on-one with several 2nd graders. It was a definite success. Last year, three more volunteers joined the program, trained by Phyllis, each working with four students every Friday. We hope to expand our RB program as soon as we can!

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS:

"Though I am gone, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe." Read a copy of Congressman Lewis' final words in his *New York Times* Op-Ed (attached). Or listen to Morgan Freeman reading it: [Morgan Freeman reads Rep. John Lewis' last words: Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation](#)
["Read, my Child, Read!" | Remembering John Lewis](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING: JOHN LEWIS

Preaching to the Chickens: the Story of Young John Lewis (in our collection) "This picture-book biography recalls the early days when young John, inspired by the and camaraderie he felt at church, practiced instilling messages of gratitude, peace, and cooperation among private congregation of chickens. Young readers will appreciate the gentle messages about the importance of hard work, persistence, and patience that lay the foundations for John Lewis' activism as an adult, which detailed in a final author's note."--*Booklist*. For a video of the book read aloud: [Animation Series: Preaching to the Chickens \(#AtlantisBuild\)](#)



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WHAT WE'RE READING: *Continued*

March: The National Book Award-winning trilogy (graphic novel format / young adult) by John Lewis, et. al., is “a galvanizing account of his coming-of-age in the movement, it’s a capsule lesson in courage of conscience, a story that inspires without moralizing or simplifying in hindsight.” *NYT*. If you’ve haven’t read a graphic novel before, this is the one with which to start!

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson. Recommended by John Colgan-Davis, this “epic, beautifully written masterwork” by Pulitzer Prize–winning Wilkerson “chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.” *The New Yorker* calls it a “deeply affecting, finely crafted and heroic book....This is narrative nonfiction, lyrical and tragic and fatalist. Hush, and listen.”

[12 Essays About White Privilege That Every White Ally Needs To Read](#) A variety of essays by well-known authors such as Ta-Nehisi Coates, Toni Morrison, Robin DiAngelo.

FREE LIBRARY UPDATES (Services and News)

[Limited Services Now Available at the Free Library! - Blog - Free Library](#)

[Free Library of Philadelphia board chair thanks Black workers after ouster of Siobhan Reardon](#)

[Reardon’s departure shows worker-donor rift](#)

[Library staff protest at home of board chair, seek resignation](#)

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

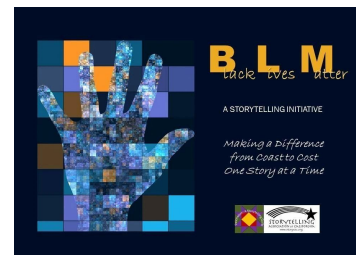
Patchwork Storytelling Guild is hosting a Black Lives Matter storytelling Initiative Town Hall. For more information: [Events](#)

[Woodmere Art Museum](#) So much to see and do, including online art classes!

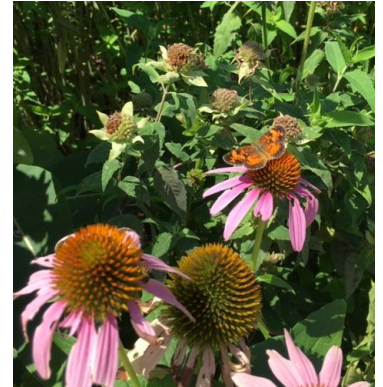
[Google Arts & Culture](#) : John shares his enjoyment stating: Initially, “I started by going to different museums online, some I had heard of but would probably never get to and some I had never heard of, such as the *Insect Museum of Western China* and the *Centenary Museum of Nigeria*. Of late I have been returning to museum favorites I got to see when Penny and I traveled: the *Georgia O’Keefe Museum*, *The National Women’s Hall of Fame*, *The Whitney* and *MOMA* and each of the *Smithsonians*. And of course, the Phila. Art Museum and Barnes are also online. Also, [www.Space.com](#) ([Space.com: NASA, Space Exploration and Astronomy News](#)). I have seen some photos from the Hubble spacecraft, photos of comets and more over the last few days.”

[MomsRising](#): Join this group and write postcards to **Get Out The Vote!** John has been working with Moms Rising, writing handwritten postcards to registered voters who haven’t voted in a few years and encouraging them to show up to vote this November. “I will finish my first 100 soon and will probably get another 100,” exclaims John. There are several groups doing similar things, including TurnPABlue: [Turn PA Blue Turn PA Blue](#) in which Janet has been involved.

[I Love Libraries: Home](#) If you tour the local library when you are on vacation, like Doris, this is a website for you! *I Love Libraries* is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA), created to spread the word about the value of today’s libraries. Get re-inspired about the importance of libraries and librarians. Great articles (especially this one on school libraries [transform](#)) and merchandise!



KELLY GREEN UPDATE: A picture is worth a thousand words! Kudos to Dennis, Camille and his team! Enjoy the blooms and learn about the importance of Urban Meadows.



Welcome to John B. Kelly School's Urban Meadow

Elements of our Urban Meadow:

What is an Urban Meadow?

An urban meadow is an ecosystem dominated by grasses and wildflowers that restores health to our urban environment and the people and wildlife that live there. Much like the diversity of our city, this urban meadow is **biodiverse**: many different types of plants, birds and insects live here. It was planted with plants native to our region, but plants adapted to urban conditions that are not native call this meadow home, too.

People

People planted this urban meadow with grasses and flowers, and the meadow needs people to continue to take care of it. The people who take care of the meadow by seeding it, watering it during droughts, and watching it grow throughout the seasons are called **stewards**.

Upland meadow

If you look carefully, the ground of the meadow is not completely flat. The very slight hills dry out after a rain storm more quickly than the rest of the ground. These hills make it possible for plants to live in the meadow that don't like a lot of moisture. The high spots and low spots in the meadow allow a wider variety of plants and animals to call this small meadow home.

Lowland meadow

Look closely- can you see that the ground surface contains a slight valley? This low area collects rain water from the rest of the meadow, and the soil here will stay wet longer. This extra moisture allows different kinds of plants to grow in this wet area- plants that need lots of moisture to thrive.

Water

Water is the source of life; without rain, no plants or animals would be able to survive. When rain falls on the meadow, the rain water goes into the soil where it is available for plants' roots to absorb it.

Question: Where does rain water go that falls on a paved street? How is this different from when rain falls on the meadow?

Wildlife

This meadow is home to animals great and small. The **snag**, or dead tree, serves as a perch for birds of prey like hawks and is home to many kinds of insects. The flowers and grasses in the meadow provide shelter and a food source for pollinators like hummingbirds and butterflies.

Soil

Did you know just one teaspoon of soil contains **BILLIONS** of living things? Fungi and bacteria in the soil break down dead plant material, turning it into nutrients that living plants can use to grow. Plants' roots grow down into the soil where they absorb nutrients. The roots act as the plant's anchor, and the soil gives the plant stability so it can grow tall.

Be Well. Please reply directly to Janet or Corinne with any items to share, or respond directly to the individual noted, rather than "reply all". We'd love to have recommendations for our "What We're Reading" feature or have you volunteer to be "In the Spotlight"!