

# Library Update - December, 2020



**Message from Corinne:** Dear Volunteers, Supporters and Friends!

The last few weeks have been truly inspiring. The holiday spirit of so many in our growing Kelly community has been overwhelmingly generous and has brightened this extraordinarily challenging time. There has been such an outpouring of thoughtful gifts: anything and everything a child could wish for! And for us, it seemed the blessings were felt in the giving. Despite our personal hardships this past year, our coming together showed how we can find strength and harmony in *community*. With that spirit of togetherness, we can look ahead with hope to the New Year.

So in 2021, we start anew, I believe stronger than ever, fortified by this past year in which the Kelly Community came together, with ingenuity and determination, to keep our commitment to the Kelly students. I am grateful to say we did it well. Sending to all in our community “tidings of comfort and joy” of the Season –CB

**Holiday Gift Drive:** As noted above, a heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the first **John B. Kelly Holiday Gift Drive** organized by the school’s Administration. When the JB Kelly community (of which we library volunteers are a part) got the word, they got busy! At last count, over 75 people made donations, including members of Canaan Baptist Church, teachers, staff, volunteers, neighbors, friends, and friends of friends. The Kelly Administrative offices were overflowing with new toys, games, puzzles, winter clothes, outerwear, books, and gift cards. As you can see from the pictures, there was an entire day devoted to sorting, wrapping and packing! There will be some very happy children and families this Holiday season!

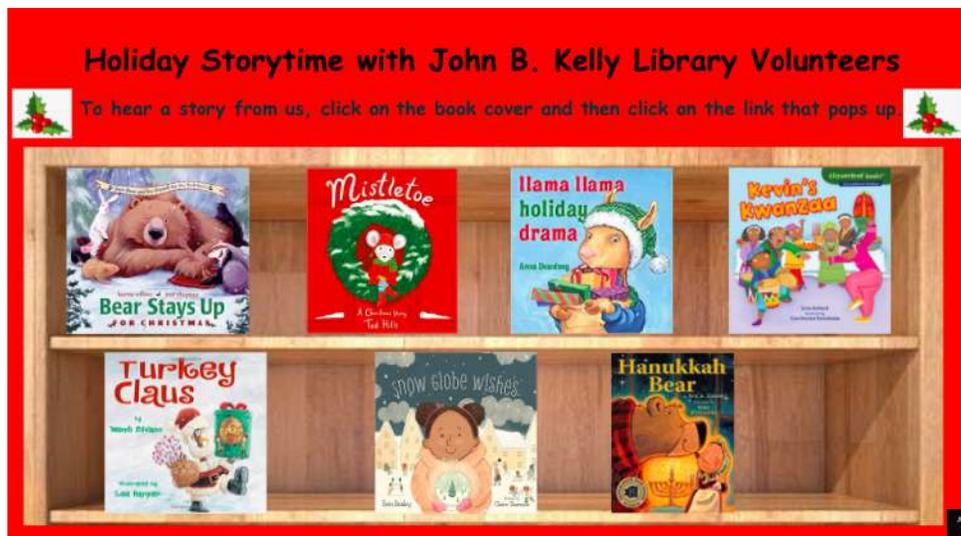


**The Elfant's Holiday Season Gift Card Drive:** After an overwhelmingly successful Spring Gift Card Drive to help the Kelly community, Nancy and Bob Elfant were inspired to help again. Please click on the link to learn about this amazing undertaking in Nancy's letter: [Elfant's Holiday Season Gift Card Drive](#)

**Virtual Reading Buddies:** Our new program needs you! Do you have 30-45 minutes a week to spend on Zoom with a second grader, sharing books and encouraging them to read? If so, we'd like to pair you with a second-grade student to be reading buddies over Zoom. Volunteers (with up-to-date clearances) will meet with the same child weekly, develop a relationship and spend some one-on-one time reading together. The process is straight forward: you'll be sent a link to join the teacher's classroom Zoom; the teacher will send you and your student to a "breakout room;" and the student will share their screen so you can both see the books. All you have to do is provide support and encouragement! The teacher is easily accessible and will pop into your breakout room to check on progress. Doris and Phyllis will have a virtual kick-off meeting to answer any specific questions you have. Our thanks to Doris and Mrs. Donofrio who successfully created the virtual plan, and to Phyllis who started the Reading Buddies Program at Kelly. Contact Doris or Corinne at [kellyschoollibrary@gmail.com](mailto:kellyschoollibrary@gmail.com) for more information.

**Ebooks Update:** Thanks to the hard work and encouragement of the Kelly 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers, students have checked out **362 ebooks** since they came online in the beginning of November, with **97 checked out so far this month!** Many teachers are scheduling a weekly "virtual trip to the library" for their students! Our thanks to all who made the E-library possible. These "just right" ebooks are helping to keep our students reading during these extraordinary times. To view our **E-Library**, click on this link: [John B. Kelly School E-Library](#). Click "See All" in the upper right to view all the books by scrolling down.

**Video Storytime Collection:** Our Video Storytime Collection continues with two more shelves including one of holiday stories. We'd love to add your video to future shelves! Contact Corinne for details!



**A Year With Frog and Toad:** Thanks to the generous spirit of Kelly's good friends, Bob and Nancy Elfant, the Kelly students were treated to two days of the streaming whimsical musical at the Arden Theatre to benefit the **Arden for Always Recovery Fund**. Much laughter was heard in the "Zoom" hallways from the children and adults alike!



### **Members' Happening:**

➤ The **Philomusica Chorale is Caroling on the Hill** virtually on December 21st at 7:30 p.m. Chorale member and library volunteer, Lee, says "the 45-minute virtual 'concert' will be complete with seasonal songs, kids and adults, poems and solos. Should be fun! Come and join us!" To sign up for the link for this free holiday event, click here: [Philomusica Chorale Christmas Caroling on the Hill](#)

**Our Wish List of Books:** Is your family looking for a **stocking stuffer idea** for you? Don't forget to suggest a book from our Library Wish List! The New Year will eventually find students, teachers and volunteers back in the Kelly Library. Think of the joy the children will feel to be surrounded by wonderful, new books! A special thank you to those who have already contributed to our collection from the Wish List. To view the list, click here: [John B. Kelly School Library Wish List](#). Contact Doris or Corinne at our new email address: [kellyschoollibrary@gmail.com](mailto:kellyschoollibrary@gmail.com) with any questions.

**News from JB KELLY SCHOOL:** Click on the links:

- [Reopening Readiness and Ventilation Reports](#)
- Food Distribution Sites: [grab-go-meals](#)
- [Family & Community Engagement](#)

### **In Case You Missed It:**

- *The Inquirer.* [Superintendent Hite's grades slip in latest school board evaluation](#)
- *The Inquirer.* [Facing a grim budget, Philadelphia School District may need to lay off employees](#)
- *Penn Today.* [Penn pledges \\$100 million to the School District of Philadelphia](#)

### **For Your Entertainment:**

- Check out what's happening at the Free Library: [Virtual Programming - Events](#)
- Miss the Light Show? See it virtually: [Macy's Center City Christmas Light Show & Concert](#)

**Wishing you and yours a wonderful, happy, safe Holiday Season!**

**Stay Safe and Well!** Please reply directly to Corinne or Janet with any items to share. We'd love to have your recommendations for "What We're Reading," have you volunteer to be "In the Spotlight," or share your activities or events in "Members' Happenings."