

Library Update - January, 2021



Message from Corinne: Dear Volunteers, Supporters and Friends, Welcome to 2021! As we look forward to the new year's programs, let's remember our outstanding work of the past year. Following my message is a proud list of the accomplishments we have achieved together since school closed in March due to Covid. We hope to build on this foundation in the months ahead, as well as prepare for our return to actual in-person school!

I am especially proud that we have been able to share our Covid-adapted library program ideas with our fellow volunteer libraries. In turn, we have learned how to adapt our Reading Buddies program to a virtual one from one such very successful initiative, the Nebinger Reading Buddies program. So, after Doris' and Mrs. Donofrio's second grade's successful trial, we have begun to grow this program in 2021.

This year will also see a strong drive to complete our computerization work. As the books are catalogued, it will naturally precipitate some reorganization of the library. We look forward to being able to access the library to complete the computerization work, revamp the shelves and freshen up the surroundings in preparation for the students' physical return.

I will conclude with some great news and heartfelt thank yous! The **Abington Friends, Peace and Social Justice Committee** has awarded us a \$500 **Right Sharing Grant for the purchase of up-to-date non-fiction books**, which are vital to our students' sense of curiosity, knowledge base, and research needs. The ongoing support of the Abington Friends has had a huge impact on our library and on our students! Our gratitude can not be overstated.

Additionally, thank you to all who donated books from our Amazon Wish List. Thanks to you, **31** beautiful new books were added to the collection. Continued donations to honor a special person, day or event will greatly help us in our efforts to keep our collection current and relevant. Wishing you all a most meaningful, healthy, happy, New Year! --CB

Covid 2020 in Review, a quick snapshot:

- Added about 100 new books through grants, wish list, donations;
- Created a new E-Library with over 274 e-books for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders;
- Distributed approximately 500 new and gently-used books to students through **Books for You** program on site at Kelly;
- Distributed approximately 750 new and gently used books through the Summer **Books on the Go** program to community childrens' groups.
- Catalogued 848 books in our library computerization system;
- Produced 32 Story Time videos especially for JB Kelly students;
- Began Virtual Reading Buddies Trial Program;
- Continued networking and support to our fellow volunteer libraries and programs;
- Supported the school's special events such as the Halloween and Holiday programs;
- Provided opportunities for involvement for our current volunteers and added new volunteers;
- Promoted Summer Reading Programs, Hoopla, and Libby in June to all students and teachers;
- Revitalized our Outreach program to the neighboring community, organizations and places of worship.

In Case You Missed It:

- **Fabulous article on Kelly from *The Philadelphia Tribune*:** [School of the Week: John B. Kelly Looks for Connections on Every Level](#)
- *The Inquirer*: [Persistent inequities in Phila. Schools](#)
- *The Inquirer*: [PA return younger kids to class](#)
- [Covid Vaccination Site Info](#)

New Star for the Story Time Shelf: Dr. Pressley showed off just one of her many talents reading *Martin's Big Words* for our **Martin Luther King, Jr. Story Time Shelf**. With some technical help from Mr. Koniecki and volunteer Rachel Burnside, Dr. Pressley's beautiful message to Kelly "Eagles" about kindness, a day of service and MLK Jr.'s legacy will get school-wide viewing along with her reading of this award-winning book.






Reading Buddies 2021: This month, we have begun to fully roll out our Reading Buddies program with the addition of four more reading buddies in Mrs. Donofrio's second grade class. We already have seven more volunteers preparing to join in February. This is such an important program which will support Kelly second graders in meeting their reading goals. According to *WHYY*: "Getting Philadelphia children to read at grade level by the end of the third grade continues to be a priority for the city and literacy partners, despite the coronavirus pandemic. Since the 2013 school year, less than half of the Philadelphia School District's 8-year-olds have achieved that benchmark, according to the district." The individualized time and encouragement provided by a Reading Buddy can truly help a second-grade student as literacy advocates know. We welcome new recruits to this program, but you must have your Philly school district clearances. Please contact Corinne or Doris at kellyschoollibrary@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more.

Books For You Program Update: We continue to give books to Kelly families! After being posted outside the school this fall on Wednesday afternoons, we've moved inside to the Lobby. Books are available to families as they come for classroom materials or visit the office.

News from Kelly Green: In the latest *Kelly Green Project Newsletter*, Dennis Barnebey reminds us that some good things did happen in 2020! At Kelly Green that meant keeping gardens alive and well, sharing organically grown produce with neighbors, supporting local teen gardeners with pay-what-you-want produce sales, revitalizing the meadow, and planning the next phase for the Kelly Schoolyard. As Dennis says, "kids need a healthy place to play. Let's make it happen here. With our kids. In our neighborhood." If you aren't already signed up for the Kelly Green Project Newsletter please do so:

[Kelly Green Project](#)



PLAY  **LEARN**  **GROW**

Play: "Play is the work of the Child!" Design and construct unique, playful opportunities that encourage risk, wonder and joy.

Build Community Capacity: Provide opportunities to engage, invest, own and care for our future.

Education: Celebrate & make visible the community's Culture, History & Ecology through art, design, music, gardening and performance.

Social & Cultural Equity: Create a safe place to play, gather & build community together.

Economic Vitality: Promote and provide opportunities for equitable investment & economic growth.

Environmental Stewardship: Reconnect children, families and local residents to the natural environment while providing opportunities to enjoy and engage with wildlife and the habitats we share.

Kelly Green Project Vision
Build a space that...
Inspires Learning, Celebrates Play and Strengthens Community

DECEMBER 2020

Asarum
Landscape Group

PARTNERS:
Hamberry Gardens
Philadelphia Water
The School District
Duffield Associates

In the Spotlight:

Meet Grace Padula.

Grace is part of the team that is creating videos for our Story Time Book Shelves. Grace states: I'm a sophomore at Masterman High School. I live in Germantown and I learned about volunteering at Kelly School because it's in my neighborhood. I've always enjoyed reading; particularly as a little kid, I loved picture books and stories. Over the summer my sisters and I started a used bookstore in a little town in Maryland which was a new and exciting experience for all of us. At the end of the summer we donated our proceeds to the local library and hope to start up the store again next summer. I enjoy spending time in the Wissahickon with my friends and rowing on the Schuylkill River. I look forward to learning more about Kelly School and meeting some of you.



News from Philadelphia School District: Click on the links:

- [District to open specialized services centers](#)
- [District launching Environmental Advisory Council](#)
- [Reopening Readiness and Ventilation Reports](#)
- Food Distribution Sites: [grab-go-meals](#)
- [Family & Community Engagement](#)

Members' Happenings: Rachel Burnside, our budding author, has a story available on Amazon! Support Rachel and read *It All Began with Seven Words!* <https://www.amazon.com/All-Began-Seven-Words-ebook/dp/B08RWXVJXL>

What We're Reading: Janet recommends *A Promised Land* (audiobook) by Barack Obama: "In full disclosure, I must admit that I am not completely finished listening, but it has been pure pleasure to go on walks and drives with Barack Obama! He paints a vivid and engaging portrait of his life, growing up, struggling to find his identity, growing in marriage and as a father, as well as his political career. He is forthright about the realities of politics and challenges he faced, but as in his speeches, he is able to reach into his moral and intellectual core to lift the reader up. His honesty and optimism make me feel nostalgic, but also hopeful and believing in "the better angels of our nature."



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" and/or have you volunteer to be "In the Spotlight" or share your activities or events with "Members' Happenings."