



# WIZARDS OF WORDS 2012

The Oak Street School PTO is pleased to announce that Wizards of Words week 2012 will take place February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wizards of Words is a program designed to provide our students with the opportunity to meet award-winning authors and illustrators. The children have the chance to hear directly from the authors about what inspires them to write; how they go about writing a book; different styles of illustrating they use; and what it takes to get a book published. All students have the opportunity to ask questions. It is a much anticipated component of the Oak Street School curriculum. Each grade will meet with two authors this year.

On Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> students in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will meet with Margie Palatini. Ms. Palatini is a NJ native and is known for her silly and very creative characters. All of her books cannot be published until they first pass her son's "giggle test." Visit her website [www.margiepalatini.com](http://www.margiepalatini.com).

Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome Brian Pinkney to Oak Street School. Mr. Pinkney, a Caldecott honoree, will be meeting with all six grades, K - 5. His presentations will be focused on his two illustrating techniques; scratchboard and watercolor on ink. His books are rich in color and creativity. He collaborates often with his wife, Andrea. Mr. Pinkney lives in Brooklyn NY. Visit his website [www.brianpinkney.net](http://www.brianpinkney.net).

And lastly, we are pleased to welcome back Dan Gutman just a "regular NJ guy" who has visited OSS in years past. He is a prolific writer well known for his baseball card adventure stories and the My Weird School series. His appeal is universal. Mr. Gutman will be meeting with grades 2, 3, 4 & 5 on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Visit his website [www.dangutman.com](http://www.dangutman.com).

The PTO is sponsoring a book sale of selected titles from each author. You can provide your child with a lasting memory of this special event by purchasing one or more books and having the book(s) personalized for your child by the author. Descriptions of the books being offered are provided in this handout and many of the books are available in both the OSS and Bernards Township libraries for your review.

To place an order, please complete the attached order form, and return along with a check made out to Oak Street PTO in an envelope marked "PTO - Wizards of Words." **Orders must be returned no later than Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Due to ordering time constraints, late requests cannot be accommodated.**

Please use one order form per student. If your book is to be inscribed to more than one child, please indicate which student is to be presented with the book. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Malatesta at [cindymalatesta@msn.com](mailto:cindymalatesta@msn.com), Christy Clowes at [christyclowes@yahoo.com](mailto:christyclowes@yahoo.com), or Beth DiCesare at [dicesarebeth@yahoo.com](mailto:dicesarebeth@yahoo.com).

The children will become familiar with these authors and their books with the help of Mrs. Philhower, our librarian, as well as their teachers. The students are very well prepared by the time Wizards of Words week comes around. In years past, we have had many late requests from parents asking for signed book copies during the week or two leading up to Wizards of Words as the excitement builds for the children. Please keep this in mind and order by January 27 to avoid disappointment. These signed copies also make wonderful gifts.

## **BOOKS by MARGIE PALATINI**

### **OSS Visit February 28 – Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>**

These funny stories have themes that resonate well with children **ages 4 - 8**:

Goldie and the Three Hares- being a good guest, good manners

In this continuation of the well-known tale, Goldilocks falls down a rabbit hole after being chased by the Three Bears. As she gets cozy with her new hosts the Three Hares- they wonder how they will ever get her to leave.

The Cheese -- jumping to conclusions

The Cheese stands alone?... What a waste of a hunk of cheddar! In this hilarious riff on the favorite nursery rhyme "The Farmer in the Dell," readers will discover what really happened to that hunk of cheddar.

Gone With The Wand -- friendship

When the world's top fairy godmother loses her magical powers, her tooth-fairy friend attempts to help her find a new gig: sugarplum fairy, snow fairy etc. —but nothing works for the plump pixie.

The Magic Wand of Bernice Sparklestein, is Kapoofski! She can't even command a cup of tea for two. But Edith B. Cuspid, tooth fairy second-class and BFF, is there to help her find a new line of fairy work.

Stuff -- spending too much time with 'things' and not enough with friends

Edward has a lot of *Stuff*—too much *Stuff*. Soon the *Stuff* takes over his house. But will Edward agree to part with his *Stuff* before it's too late? *Stuff* is Margie Palatini and Noah Z. Jones's hilarious story about the stuff that counts and the stuff that's just, well . . . *Stuff*.

### Gorgonzola -- good hygiene

Long, long ago, when dinosaurs ruled the land, there lived a dino who was the worst of them all: Gorgonzola. Not really large, not really scary, Gorgonzola was known near and far for his . . . D.O. Yes, *dinosaur odor*. From horn to toe, Gorgonzola was one serious stinker. That is, until a bold little birdie decides it's high time to show this soap-challenged big boy just how to clean up his act.

### Sweet Tooth -- self-empowerment

Lots of kids have a sweet tooth. But not like Stewart's. His very loud sweet tooth wants what it wants, when it wants it...and lets everyone know about it. Stewart's sweet tooth screams for cake at weddings, for candy during class, and torments him at the movies. Stewart has had enough, and he's bringing out the big guns -- a carrot. Can he stand up to the most annoying sweet tooth in history.

### Moo Who? -- fitting in

When Hilda Mae Heifer gets knocked on the noggin by a cow pie - she wakes up without her moo! She has amnesia. There is a series of hilarious events as she tries to fit in while imitating the other barnyard animals.

### Perfect Pet -- wanting a pet

Elizabeth really, really wants a pet, but her parents say NO to all of her ideas. Instead, she ends up with a cactus called Carolyn. And after some very unsuccessful campaigning, to her wonderful surprise, Elizabeth encounters Doug -- surely the most unusual and special pet of all. Even Carolyn agrees.

### Bedhead -- the worst hair day ever

It was big. It was bad. It was...BEDHEAD! No doubt about it, Oliver's having a very bad hair day. His parents and sister try to help. They push, they pull, they spritz and they spray; they goop, they glop, and they mousse. But Oliver's hair is still *way* out of control. And today's class picture day.

## **BOOKS by BRIAN PINKNEY**

### **OSS Visit February 29 – Grades Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### Jo Jo's Flying Side Kick (grades K-3) - overcoming fears

A girl is nervous about going for her yellow belt in Tao Kwon Do, among other things - read how she overcomes these fears. With scratchboard and oil illustrations, this book has a beautiful palette of blues, greens and white.

#### Little Diva (grades K-3)

Little girl wants to be a Broadway singer and dancer just like her mom. She lives with her mom and their dog. She learns that it takes hard work by watching her mom and joining her on set.

Max Found Two Sticks (grades K-3) Max doesn't much feel like talking, so he lets his drumsticks (two twigs, actually) respond to questions and imitate the sounds of his city neighborhood. Wonderful scratchboard illustrations.

Ella Fitzgerald (grades K - 5)

American jazz and song vocalist. This book contains wonderful pastel colors and jazzy words. It tells the story of Ella Fitzgerald's life of entertaining which began when she was a young girl.

Duke Ellington (grades 3-5) music

Celebrating the life of Duke Ellington, one of the most inspirational jazz musicians of all time.

Sit in (grades 4-5) - courage

This picture book is a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the momentous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing civil rights movement. The expressive paintings are filled with emotion that mirror the hope, strength, and determination that fueled the dreams of these four young men, as well as many others.

## **BOOKS by DAN GUTMAN**

### **OSS Visit March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5**

#### **My Weird School Series Grades 2-3**

Ms. Hannah is Bananas #4

Mr. Louie is Screwy #20

Ms. Krup Cracks Me Up! #21

#### **My Weird School Daze Series Grades 3+**

Mrs. Dole is Out of Control #1

Coach Hyatt is a Riot #4

Miss Laney is Zaney #8

#### **Baseball Card Adventures Series Grades 3 - 5**

Honus & Me - a young boy stumbles upon the most valuable baseball card in the world and discovers he has the power to travel through time, using baseball cards as his time machine.

Shoeless Joe & Me - Stosh travels back to 1919 but will he be in time to prevent Shoeless Joe Jackson from being implicated in a conspiracy to throw the World Series?

Mickey & Me - Stosh THINKS he will be going on an adventure with Mickey Mantle. But he's in for a big surprise.

### **Other books by Dan Gutman**

The Genius Files: Mission Unstoppable - Coke and Pepsi McDonald are a perfectly ordinary twin brother and sister on a cross-country RV trip with their parents. Except for one thing--they are also being chased by a bunch of psychos who are trying to kill them as they stop along the way at The National Yo Yo Museum, The Spam Museum, and various other offbeat tourist attractions. Who is trying to kill the McDonald twins, and why? You'll have to read *The Genius Files* to find out.

The Kid Who Ran for President - A story about a 12-year old boy who runs for President.

The Million Dollar Shot - A favorite among fans, this book is about a boy who wins a poetry contest and gets a chance to take a foul shot in the middle of the NBA finals and win a million dollars.

The Talent Show - A rock and roller. A ballerina. A comedian. A rapper. A singer. Which one will win the Cape Bluff Elementary School talent show? Or maybe it will be the kid you least expect.

Nightmare at the Book Fair - After getting bonked in the head at his school book fair, Trip Dinkleman is knocked into a hypnotic dream state, where he is trapped for the rest of the book. Each chapter finds him inside a different kind of children's book: horror, science fiction, fantasy, adventure, historical fiction, easy reader, sports, animal and even girls' fiction. Very strange and different!

The Homework Machine - Oh, you're gonna love this. A genius kid creates a machine that does your homework for you automatically.

Getting Air - This story is about some skaters who survive a plane crash and have to use their survival skills in the wilderness.

Johnny Hangtime - Dan considers this his best book about a kid who is a Hollywood stuntman who doubles for Ricky Corvette, a loathsome movie star.