



JFK Weekly Newsletter

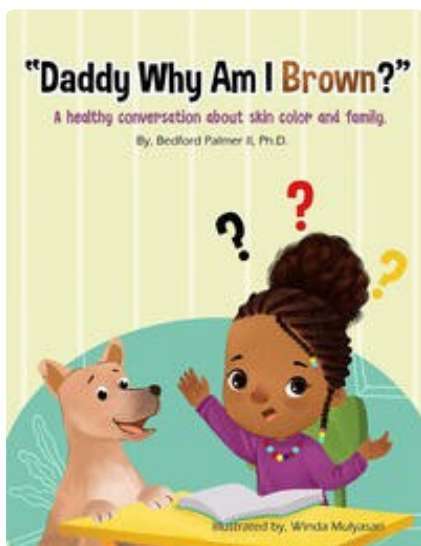
Thursday, December 21, 2023 Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

No School

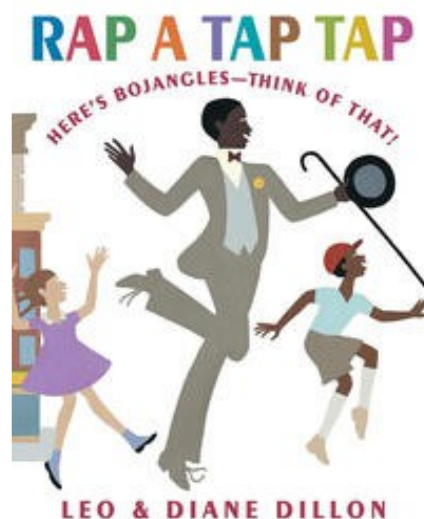
No School December 22nd - January 1st
Students return to school Tuesday, January 2, 2023

Books to Read Together

One of the most important things that adults can do at home is to read with children. It helps children build language skills, increases their vocabulary, builds empathy, and gives families a time to connect. There is no right or wrong way to read together, and families often have their own collection of books that they read. [Learning for Justice](#) recently published a list of their favorite book recommendations. Below is a snapshot of the books for growing readers, elementary school and younger. On their website they also have recommendations for upper elementary/middle school and teen/adult books.



"Hair Love" Written by Matthew A. Cherry



"Daddy Why Am I Brown? A Healthy Conversation About Skin Color and Family" Written by Bedford Palmer II, Ph.D., and illustrated by Winda Mulyasari

This book celebrates the diversity of human traits, such as skin color, and spotlights the need to get to know people as individuals.

Hair Love is a story that emphasizes black representation, culture, the beauty of hair, and black fatherhood.

"Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles—Think of That!" Written by Leo and Diane Dillon

This rhyming story introduces readers to Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, a tap-dancing legend who broke racial boundaries in the U.S. entertainment industry throughout the early 20th century.



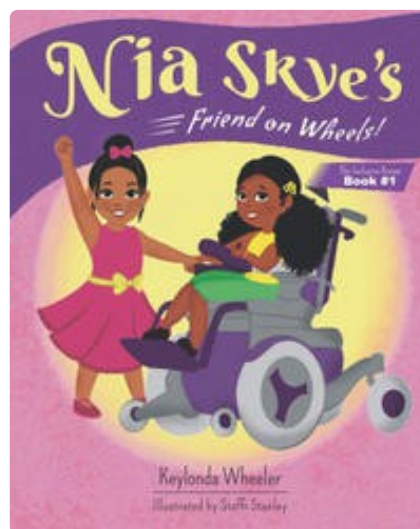
"Can We Please Give the Police Department to the Grandmothers?" Written by Junauda Petrus and Illustrated by Kristen Urod

This book highlights the work our elders did and illustrates a world where care and support rule the day.



"Julián Is a Mermaid" Written and illustrated by Jessica Love

This book illustrates to children how important it is to express who you are, and how wonderful it is when the people who love you encourage self acceptance.



"Nia Skye's Friend on Wheels" Written by Keylonda Wheeler and illustrated by Steffi Stanley

The first in a series titled The Inclusive Krewe, this book highlights a friendship between two Kindergarten girls, one who happens to be in a wheelchair.



"Eugene the Unicorn: A Kid's Book To Help Start

"Josie Dances" Written by Denise Lajimodiere and illustrated by Angela Erdrich

This story follows Josie, a young Ojibew girl, as she prepares for her powwow.

"We Are Water Protectors" Written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade

This story, written and illustrated by two native women, was written in response to the Dakota Access Pipeline protests and connects Indigenous traditions to present-day activism.

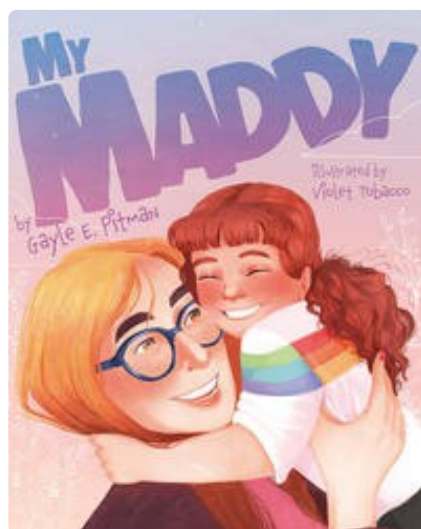
LGBTQ Inclusive Conversations" Written and illustrated by T. Wheeler

This book demonstrates how to engage in age-appropriate discussions about difference, diversity, and acceptance.



"It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity" Written by Theresa Thorn and illustrated by Noah Grigni

This book guides children as they learn to understand gender expression and the spectrum of gender identities.



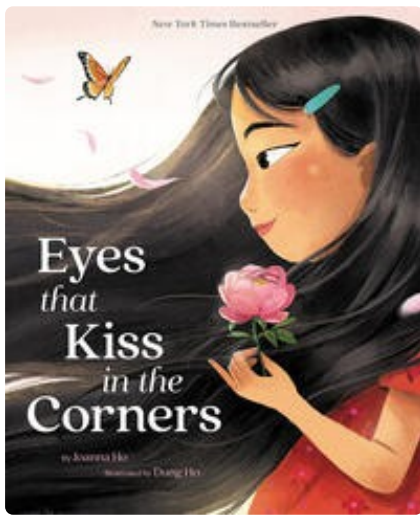
"My Maddy" Written by Gayle E. Pitman, Ph.D., and illustrated by Violet Tobacco

This book tells the story of a child and their non-binary parent in an age appropriate way, highlighting ordinary things that are neither one thing or the other - for instance, hazel eyes, which are neither green nor brown but a combination of both.



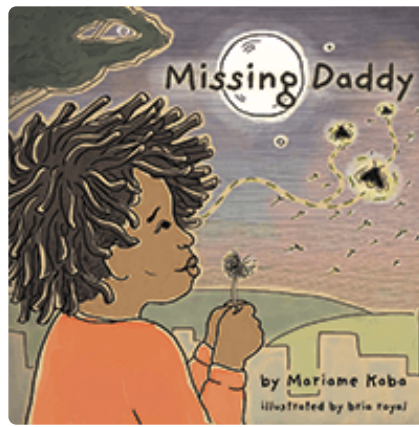
"Juna and Appa" Written by Jane Park and illustrated by Felicia Hoshino

This story highlights the connection a girl has with her father in their working class family.



"Eyes That Kiss in the Corners" Written by Joanna Ho and illustrated by Dung Ho

This heart-warming book highlights self-love and family pride.



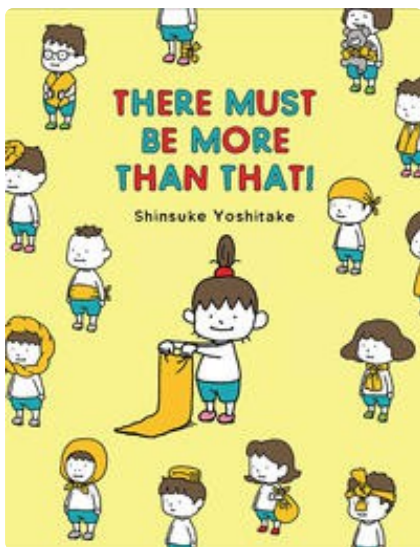
"Missing Daddy" Written by Mariame Kaba and illustrated by Bria Royal

This book tells the story of a child whose father is incarcerated and impact that has.



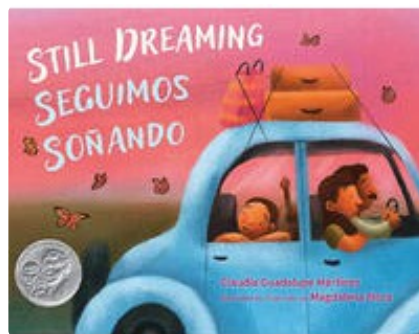
"My Footprints" written by Bao Phi and illustrated by Basia Tran

This story follows Thuy as she is teased and works to find strength and power with the support of her mothers.



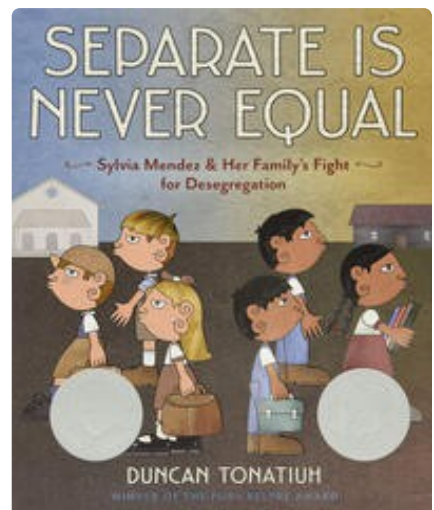
"There Must Be More Than That!" Written and illustrated by Shinsuke Ypshitake

This story follows a girl and her grandmother as they talk about the future, what they want to be part of, and steps needed to get there.



"Still Dreaming/Seguimos Soñando" Written by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez and illustrated by Magdalena Mora

This bilingual book is a story of a family's decision to stay together during the Mexican Repatriation in the 1930's when Mexican-Americans were expelled from the United States.



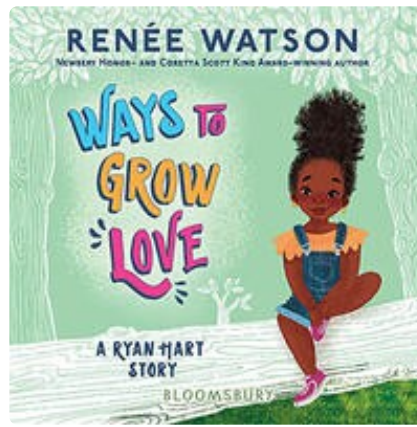
"Separate In Never Equal" Written and Illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

This books tells the true story of the Mendez family's fight in the late 1940's to desegregate schools in California.



"The 1619 Project: Born on the Water" Written by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson and illustrated by Nikkolas Smith

This story follows a girl who is assigned to trace her family's history from the middle passage to Black Lives Matter, and all the amazing history in between.



"Ways To Grow Love (A Ryan Hart Story, 2)" Written by Renée Watson and illustrated by Nina Mata

This story captures a girl's Elementary School story and all that comes with it, from special friendships to special moments with her family.



"Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend" Written by Dawn Quigley and illustrated by Tara Alichbert

This first book of the Jo Jo series tells the story of an Ojibwe girl who thinks she may need to make some more friends because her best friend is Mimi - who is a cat.



Book Reviews for Children and Teens

Stories are a deeply meaningful way that we learn about the world, and they can build empathy and understanding of ourselves and others. Through stories we can connect with a character and share another viewpoint about the world. But importantly, stories emphasize that we are not alone in our emotions and experiences.

learningforjustice.org

Calendar

January 2, 2024

All students and staff return to school

Friday, January 5, 2024

Veggie Van Go

January 18, 2024

12:15 Early Release for all students

No Pre-K

Friday, January 19, 2024

Veggie Van Go

Friday, February 2, 2024

Veggie Van Go

Friday, February 16, 2024

Veggie Van Go

February 22 & 23, 2024

11:00 Early Release for all students

MHS Parent Teacher Conferences

February 26 - March 5, 2024

No School



JFK Elementary

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Sara Raabe