

Harvard Public Library Children's Programs April 2025

Children's Room direct line: (978) 456 - 2381
childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org

Registration Information

Register for children's programs
by using the link below to access
the library's online event calendar:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089>

Individual program descriptions also have
registration information and links.

Children's Room Contact Information

Email:
childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org

Website:
<https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/children>

Phone:
(978) 456 - 2381



Friends of the Harvard Public Library Annual Book Sale Donation Collection Dates!

The Friends of the Harvard Public Library will be
holding their Annual Book Sale this year **May 9 – 11!**

This is the main fundraising event for the Friends.
Did you know that 80% of children's programs
at the HPL are supported by the
Friends of the Harvard Public Library?

Support the Friends of the HPL
with donations of used books, audiobooks,
CDs, DVDs, LPs, and jigsaw puzzles.

Book Sale Donation Collection Dates

Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 AM – noon

Sunday, April 27 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Thursday, May 1 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 AM – noon
(rain date Sunday, May 4 from 9:00 AM – noon)

For more information about the Friends Book Sale:
<https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/about/programs/friends-book-sale>

Native American Artifacts and Birds of Prey



**Wednesday, April 2
at 12:30 PM**

Ages 7 through Adult

Jim Parks and Julie Ann Collier of Wingmasters will bring a variety of live birds of prey and Native American artifacts to the library for this terrific presentation.

Please note, per the presenter's request, this is not a program for children under 7.

Native Americans revered birds of prey for their majestic appearance as well as for their hunting prowess. To invoke the spirit of these powerful predators, Native peoples followed the ancient tradition of wearing or carrying bird of prey feathers. They also admired the subtle beauty of raptor feathers, from the black-and-white tail feathers of juvenile golden eagles to the wing feathers of hawks and falcons, patterned with arrowhead-shaped markings. The strong connection between raptors and Native Americans suggested this program. It combines 5 live birds of prey with authentic artifacts, many of museum quality, and both explains and shows how different Native American cultures transformed natural materials into objects of beauty and drama. Crafts displayed at this program range from shields and headdresses to clothing and jewelry.

*This program is supported in part by a grant
from the Harvard Cultural Council,
a local agency which is supported by the
Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*



Register here: <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/14042576>

Tanglewood Marionettes

presents

The Fairy Circus

**Saturday, April 12
at 2:00 PM**

Pre-K through Grade 2



Tanglewood Marionettes' presentation of The Fairy Circus begins with a brief demonstration of the art of puppetry. Through humorous interplay, the audience will learn about various forms of puppets, from the simple glove puppet to the sophisticated marionette.

Featuring over twenty beautifully hand-crafted marionettes, The Fairy Circus is a showcase for turn-of-the-century-style trick puppetry. The puppets will dance, play instruments, juggle, contort, transform, and fly through the air with the greatest of ease, all to the best-loved music of favorite composers!

The Fairy Circus is geared primarily toward children from pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2.

This show will be outdoors in the pavilion unless the weather is inclement, in which case it will move indoors to Volunteers Hall.

Registration reserves an indoor seat (indoor seating is limited).

This program is sponsored by a grant.

Register here: <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13622267>

Family Movie Night!



Moana 2 (PG)

**Friday, April 4
at 6:30 PM**

Come watch a movie on the big screen at the library!
Please register so that we can inform you of weather cancellations or other last minute schedule changes.

*Note that the library will not be providing snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own snacks.
(But please limit snacks to things like popcorn, chips, etc. - i.e., no pizza... 😊)*

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13622262>

Paws and Read



Wednesdays, April 9 & 23

Appointments at 3:45, 4:05 & 4:25 PM

Grades K through 6

Reading to Rhia or Chase, the library's Therapy Dogs, is a fantastic way to bolster a child's reading confidence!

Children who are independent readers can make a 20 minute appointment to read to one of these wonderful therapy dogs; on each date, six children total will get a chance to have either Rhia or Chase's undivided canine attention.

Registration for an appointment will guarantee your reservation to read to one of the dogs.

Drop-ins are also welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved appointments.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089>

Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room



***Hitpig!* (PG)**

**Thursday, April 10
at 3:45 PM**

Join us for an afterschool movie for elementary age kids in the Story Room! Afterschool movies are supervised by teen volunteers; no refreshments are served (but it is ok to bring your own snack).

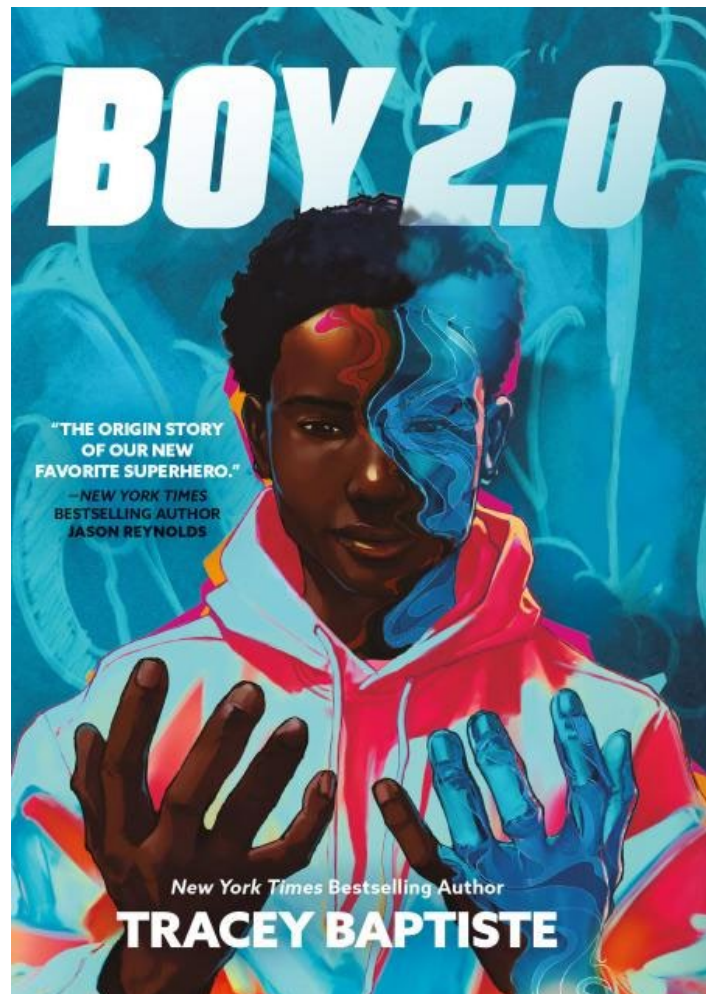
Parents are also welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

Registration is appreciated!

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/14381602>

Children's Literature Book Discussion Group for Grownups



**Thursday, April 17
at 7:00 PM**

Are you a grownup who loves to read children's books? You're not alone!

Join this monthly book group for grownups and discuss children's literature with an awesome group of like-minded readers.

We usually read and discuss recently published novels for elementary and middle school aged readers, and we always have terrific, broad-ranging discussions. We'd love to have you join us!

In April we will be discussing
Boy 2.0 by Tracey Baptiste.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541480>

STORYTIMES

Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime

Ages 0 – 2+

Mondays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM

No storytime on 4/21 and 4/24

Mother Goose on the Loose is an early literacy program that uses rhymes and songs to help pre-reading children get ready for reading. It incorporates music, movement, ritual, repetition, positive reinforcement, developmental tips, nursery rhymes, puppets, musical instruments, colored scarves, and book reading into a fun-filled 30 minute session for infants to 2-year-olds and caregivers.

Registration is not required –

but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute schedule changes through May 22.

[Register here.](#)

Storytime for 2's & 3's ~ Ages 2 & 3

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

No storytime on 4/23

This 20 to 30 minute storytime includes songs and fingerplays, simple stories, feltboard stories, and phonemic awareness activities appropriate for children aged 2 & 3 years old and their caregivers (older siblings are also welcome). Our phonemic awareness activities will focus on learning and practicing the short vowel sounds and then some consonant sounds, and learning to put sounds together to make simple words.

Registration is required for the winter/spring session. *Enrollment is limited to 10 children and their caregivers.*

[Register here.](#)

Art & Stories for 4's & 5's

Ages 4 & 5 and up

Mondays at 1:30 PM

No storytime on 4/21

This 30 to 45 minute program, appropriate for children ages 4 to 7, begins with a few longer picturebook stories and phonemic awareness activities, then ends with a process art project that encourages preschoolers to explore art materials in an open-ended, creative manner.

Make sure to wear clothes that can get messy!

Our phonemic awareness activities will focus on learning and practicing the short vowel sounds and then some consonant sounds, and learning to put sounds together to make simple words.

Registration is required for the winter/spring session.

Limit of 12 (minimum of 6) children.

[Register here.](#)

Saturday Toddler Storytime



**Saturday, April 26
at 10:30 AM**

Ages 1 to 3

Drop-in for fun stories and songs that promote early literacy.

Parents, caregivers, and children ages 12 months to 3 years are invited to this special story time with Miss Kathleen.

To encourage the development of early literacy skills through singing, rhyming, reading, and movement, children will enjoy musical instruments, puppets, and fingerplays.

This interactive program is perfect for wiggly toddlers and their caregivers.

Registration is not required –

but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute schedule changes.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13689277>

BOOK GROUPS!

Want to join a book group? We'd love to have you – new members are always welcome!

Book group membership is limited to children who are Harvard/Devens residents/HES students, in order to keep the book groups small.

Maximum group size per grade is 12 children.

We will request for you a copy of the book we will be discussing. We can get you a copy of the book in print format and/or in audiobook format (either on CD, Playaway, or in e-audio format)! Packaged snacks will be served at the younger book groups, and bagels and cream cheese will be served at the 5th and 6th grade book groups.

Registration links for each book group are listed below that book group's description.

Book Gobblers Book Group for 1st & 2nd Graders

Monday, April 28 from 4:00 to 4:45

In this read-aloud book discussion group, Lindsay reads a story aloud to the group, then we discuss the book together.

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541406>

3rd Grade Book Group

Monday, April 7 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

The 3rd Grade Book is:

The Year of the Dog by Grace Lin

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541962>

4th Grade Book Group

Monday, April 14 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

The 4th Grade Book is:

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street
by Karina Yan Glaser

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541316>

Bagels & Books Group for 5th Graders

Tuesday, April 15 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

The 5th Grade Book is:

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541382>

Bagels & Books Group for 6th Graders

Tuesday, April 29 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM

The 6th Grade Book is:

The Ruby Key by Holly Lisle

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541428>

Write Stuff



**Tuesday, April 1
from 3:35 to 4:20 PM**

4th through 6th Grade

This low-key, supportive, once-monthly writing group is for kids in grades 4 through 6 who love to write.

We talk books and writing, do some fun writing exercises, and share as much (or as little!) of our writing with each other as time allows. Writing group membership is limited to 12 children who are Harvard/Devens residents/HES students to keep the group size small.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541332>

Puzzles

[Borrow a jigsaw puzzle from the library!](#)

Puzzles are on display in the children's room, and can be checked out at the circulation desk.

Loan period is three weeks plus one renewal. Puzzles are available on a walk-in basis (not holdable).

Board Games

Thanks to the generous support of the *Friends of the Harvard Public Library*, we have a fantastic collection of [over 100 board games](#) that can be borrowed.

We have games that are good for families, competitive games, strategy games, cooperative games, math games, and games focused on reading and storytelling.

Loan period is two weeks, no renewals. Games are available on a walk-in basis (not holdable).

Ice Cream Social



2025 will be the FIRST
Ice Cream Social by the Pavilion!



Ice Cream Social 2023

Save the date!

Tuesday, June 24 at 4:00 PM

All Ages

Come make your own yummy sundaes with ice cream from West Side Creamery, socialize with friends, have fun playing lawn games, and enjoy classic rock songs performed by the talented local band The Speed Bumps! The Ice Cream Social takes place outdoors on the library lawn by the pavilion.

Let's try to go Low Waste this year!!!

Ice Cream Social attendees are encouraged to bring their own non-disposable bowls, cups, & spoons.
(The library will also provide disposable bowls, cups & spoons as needed.)

Pre-registration is greatly appreciated so that we can provide enough sweet treats for all, and also so that we can notify you if we need to use a rain date.

Rain dates are Wed. June 25 and Thurs. June 26 at 4:00 PM.

*This program is sponsored by The Friends of the Harvard Public Library
with support from West Side Creamery and Roche Bros.*

Register here: <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13581252>