

Author Patricia Polacco is Coming!

Author Patricia Polacco is coming to Beaumont Elementary School on November 18th!! We are so excited that our students will have the opportunity to meet and hear from one of our country's most acclaimed children's book author/illustrators.

We are able to offer Patricia Polacco books for purchase at a 20% discount, generously offered to us by the Chester County Book and Music Company. Although Polacco's books are "picture books," their themes and life lessons are for everyone. On the list of books offered, you will see that they cover a variety of ages. While she won't be able to personally autograph them, she is giving us special signed bookplates that will go in each book. We hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Books offered include:

An Orange for Frankie (Grades 3–5) - The Stowell family is abuzz with holiday excitement, and Frankie, the youngest boy, is the most excited of all. But there's a cloud over the joyous season: Tomorrow is Christmas Eve, and Pa hasn't returned yet from his trip to Lansing. He promised to bring back the oranges for the mantelpiece. Every year there are nine of them nestled among the evergreens, one for each of the children. But this year, heavy snows might mean no oranges . . . and, worse, no Pa! This is a holiday story close to Patricia Polacco's heart. Frankie was her grandmother's youngest brother, and every year she and her family remember this tale of a little boy who learned--and taught--an important lesson about giving, one Christmas long ago.

Babushka Baba Yaga (Grades K-2) – Although Baba Yaga is known throughout Russia as a "Terrible, horrible creature" that eats children, she is a very sweet woman who exhausts her days watching in admiration of the village babushkas. Wishing to have a grandchild to love, Baba Yaga dresses herself in human clothing and covers her elfin ears with a scarf. Resembling any other grandmother or babushka, she is welcomed into the home of a young mother and quickly assumes the care of a child named Victor. She grows to love the boy, but when the other old women tell terrifying stories of the witch Baba Yaga, she returns to the woods with a heavy heart. But not for long – we won't give the story away, but Baba Yaga is finally accepted by the babushkas who realize that, "Those who judge one another on what they hear or see, and not what they know of them in their hearts, are fools indeed!"

Bee Tree (Grades K-2) – Young Mary Ellen would rather be "outdoors running and playing" than indoors with a book. Sympathetic to her feelings, her grandfather suggests that they find a bee tree. The Michigan woods literally buzz with activity as Mary Ellen and Grampa chase a pollen-laden bee to its far-off hive, picking up curious neighbors and passers-by along the way. Before long the original pair becomes a "thundering stampede of goats, buggies, people and bikes" in search of honey.

Bun Bun Button (Grades K-2) - Patricia Polacco's newest book! Paige loves cuddling with Gramma and all of Gramma's pets in the Old Blue Chair. And when Gramma makes her Bun Bun Button, an adorable homemade stuffed bunny with a button nose, this special time becomes even cozier. Then a balloon carries the little bunny away. Bun Bun braves honking geese and a wide night sky, until luck - or love - magically brings her back home to the little girl who loves her. This heartwarming story celebrates the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren, and is perfect for children who imagine their toys have secret adventures when no one's watching.

Chicken Sunday (Grades 2-5) - After being initiated into a neighbor's family by a solemn backyard ceremony, a young Russian American girl and her African American brothers determine to buy their Gramma Eula a beautiful Easter hat. But their good intentions are misunderstood, until they discover just the right way to pay for the hat that Eula's had her eye on. A loving family story woven from the author's childhood. Polacco has outdone herself with these joyful, energetic illustrations, her vibrant colors even richer and more intense than usual, an while authentic details enhance the interest.

For the Love of Autumn (Grades 1-5) - Miss Parks just loves her new home, her new teaching job, and all her new students. But most of all, she loves Autumn, her perfect little kitten. Then one night, during a terrible storm, Autumn runs away. Miss Parks' students band together to search for Autumn—with no luck. Hope is lost until Autumn turns up at Miss Parks' front door with a brand new collar and a bandage on her tail. Someone has been taking care of Autumn! With the help of her students, Miss Parks unravels the mystery of Autumn's disappearance and finds true love along the way, Polacco style.

G is for Goats (Grades PreK-1) - Goats--silly, sly, foolish, cute--are the subject of this rhymed alphabet book, affectionately drawn from life by a veteran author and illustrator. Polacco is pictured on the book jacket with a goat she raised on her farm in Michigan. Three sturdy girls in brightly patterned peasant clothes and bare feet share the pages with goats--kids, nannys, and billys. A pleasant bounce comes with the rhyme: "E is for Ears, / some floppy, some not. / F is for Flowers, / which goats eat a lot." The colors are clear and loud and the pictures fairly burst from the page: goats, cats, chicks, dogs, and bunnies gambol along with the goats amidst the letters. Three newly born kids--Zig, Zag, and Zoe--end the tale--and the alphabet.

Junkyard Wonders (Grades 3-5) - When young Trisha finds out her class at the new school is known as "The Junkyard," she is devastated. She moved from her old town so she wouldn't be in a special class anymore! But then she meets her teacher, the quirky and invincible Mrs. Peterson, and her class-mates, an oddly brilliant group of students, each with his or her own unique talent. And it is here in The Junkyard that Trisha learns the true meaning of genius, and that this group of misfits is, in fact, wonders, all of them. Based on a real-life event in Patricia Polacco's childhood, this ode to teachers will inspire all readers to find their inner genius.

Just Plain Fancy (Grades K–) - Naomi Vlecke lives with her farming family in an Amish community in Pennsylvania. The Amish first came to Pennsylvania in the early 1700s, and to this day preserve a religious and "plain" life-style. As part of her household chores, Naomi looks after the chickens with her little sister, Ruth. One day a strange bird hatches from one of their eggs, and the girls don't know what to do, because it is certainly not a "plain" bird. A lovely story of family traditions and the acknowledgement of the beauty in nature.

Meteor (All Grades) - It's no wonder the people of Union City make such a big fuss over the meteor that lands on Gramma and Granpa's farm. The news buzzes through town, more disastrous in each retelling. Soon the farm becomes a carnival ground, with a band and a circus and hot-air balloon rides. When the festivities are over, those who have touched the meteor feel that their lives have changed. Based on a true event, this enchanting book overwhelmingly expresses the magic that suddenly pervades a small town, from the funny, folksy way the story is told to the imaginative, full-color illustrations.

Mr. Lincoln's Way (Grades 3-5) – Patricia Polacco frequently speaks on the topic of teasing and warns that racism is an "adult form of teasing". This story is about a bully who overcomes his prejudice when an African American principal invites him to help attract birds to the school atrium.

My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother (Grades 1-5) - There's nothing worse than a rotten redheaded older brother who can do everything you can do better! Patricia's brother Richard could run the fastest, climb the highest, and spit the farthest and still smile his extra-rotten, greeny-toothed, weasel-eyed grin. But when little Patricia wishes on a shooting star that she could do something -- anything -- to show him up, she finds out just what wishes -- and rotten redheaded older brothers -- can really do. Patricia Polacco's boldly and exuberantly painted pictures tell a lively and warmhearted tale of comic one-upsmanship and brotherly love.

Pink and Say (Grades 4–5) - Hands and gestures have always been important in Polacco's work. Here they are at the center of a picture book based on a true incident in the author's own family history. It's a story of interracial friendship during the Civil War between two 15-year-old Union soldiers. Say, who is white and poor, tells how he is rescued by Pinkus (Pink), who carries the wounded Say back to the Georgia home where Pink's black family were slaves. Pink and his mother nurse Say back to health, and Pink teaches his friend to read; but before they can leave, marauders kill Pink's mother and drag the boys to Andersonville prison. Pink is hanged, but Say survives to tell the story and pass it on across generations. An incredibly poignant Civil War story.

Thank You, Mr. Falker (Grades 3-5) - Once upon a time, Patricia Polacco was a little girl named Trisha starting school. Trisha could paint and draw beautifully, but when she looked at words on a page, all she could see was jumble. It took a very special teacher to recognize little Trisha's dyslexia: Mr. Falker, who encouraged her to overcome her reading disability. Patricia Polacco will never forget him, and neither will we.

The Keeping Quilt (All Grades) - "We will make a quilt to help us always remember home," Anna's mother said. From a basket of old clothes, Anna's babushka, Uncle Vladimir's shirt, Aunt Havalah's nightdress and an apron of Aunt Natasha's become The Keeping Quilt, passed along from mother to daughter for almost a century. For four generations the quilt is a Sabbath tablecloth, a wedding canopy, and a blanket that welcomes babies warmly into the world. In strongly moving pictures that are as heartwarming as they are real, Patricia Polacco tells the story of her own family, and the quilt that remains a symbol of their enduring love and faith.

The Tree of the Dancing Goats (All Grades) - Trisha loves the eight days of Hanukkah, when her mother stays home from work, her Babushka makes delicious potato latkes, and her Grampa carves wonderful animals out of wood as gifts for Trisha and her brother. In the middle of her family's preparation for the festival of lights, Trisha visits her closest neighbors, expecting to find them decorating their house for Christmas. Instead they are all bedridden with scarlet fever. It is difficult for Trisha's family to enjoy their Hanukkah feast when they know that their neighbors won't be able to celebrate their holiday. Then Grampa has an inspiration: they will cut down trees, decorate them, and secretly deliver them to the neighbors, " Soon her living room is filled with trees -- but that is only the first miracle of many during an incredible holiday season. Based on a long cherished childhood memory, this story celebrates the miracle of true friendship.

Thunder Cake (Grades all) – This is the story of how Patricia Polacco's grandmother helped her conquer her childhood fear of Michigan thunderstorms. When the air gets heavy and dark clouds drift low over the fields of Grandma's farm, her frightened granddaughter hides under the bed. But Grandma insists that this is Thunder Cake baking weather and the two are soon scrambling to gather the ingredients to make the cake--and get it into the oven before the storm arrives.