

## Lincoln Public Library Children's Room Support of the LPS 2020-21

While this was certainly a unique year and much of our normal programming and connections to the school were sadly lost, given the necessity to share resources in a tough time, we've been pleasantly surprised at the close partnerships we've forged with many community organizations this past year including the Lincoln Public Schools. Please see the list below for an overview of our work with the LPS in 2020-21:

- In March 2020, June 2020, September 2020, January 2021, and March 2021 we contacted administrators (Lincoln campus, Hanscom campus, Preschool) and the METCO Coordinator with information about supporting at-home learning, summer reading opportunities, virtual programming, and other resources.
- Throughout the year we've helped individual teachers and the Hanscom school librarian with library card registrations as well as both digital and physical book requests.
- We were approached in the fall of 2020 by Assistant Superintendent, Jessica Rose, to work with the LPS on the children's book section of the new site, "Resources for Antiracist Learning and Action." In response we created a booklist, "#OwnVoices 2020" and look forward to the continual updating of this important resource.
- Together with a 7th grade Girl Scout, we offered a virtual Reading Buddies program pairing 7th & 8th grade students with students in grades 3 and under. The response was tremendous as LPS students missed this beloved school program.
- Working with middle school teacher, Jenny Nam, and the BLM@Lincoln Student Group, we supported and attended the first book discussion group, *Dear Martin*, and are slated to do the same for the April 28th discussion.
- We are working with METCO Coordinating Committee Chair, Kristen Ferris, in offering Book Match book bundles (curated bags based on a specific child's interest) to both remote and in-person Boston students.
- We've maintained and updated the popular Lincoln School Committee bookshelf in the Children's Room which houses materials recommended by the LSC.
- We were happy to see both the K-4 principal, Sarah Collmer, as well as a K-4 teacher sign up for our virtual program, "What is Racism?," held on March 17. Their interest in our programming reinforced the school-library connection.

In addition to the above school-specific support, we offered a variety of virtual programming this year for grades pre-k through middle grade including storytimes and book groups. We have also been busy supporting the community's young readers through our daily work of book recommendations, book bundles, and fulfilling our mission of instilling a love of reading to whomever walks through our doors (or, with COVID in the mix, whomever reaches out virtually.)

When deemed safe to do so we hope to:

- Resume in-person visits to both the Lincoln and Hanscom campuses for storytimes, to share summer reading information, literacy support, etc.
- Resume in-library early release activities on Wednesday.
- Continue to work with the METCO Coordinator to support Boston-based students

As a reminder, the children's librarians are committed to being a true community partner and welcome any opportunity to assist teachers and administrators in their efforts to promote literacy.

Prepared by Deborah Leopold March 29, 2021