

BOOKS TO GROW WITH NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

Hello! This month we focus on fall and the return to school. Instead of an interview, please look below for some wonderful new book choices for those early-back-in-school issues. Next month we'll resume our interviews!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As most of you know, Lutra Press is a new press, established last year. We published our first book in the *Books to Grow With* series in July of this year. We thought you might be interested to hear a bit about how it's going. As you may know, our initial effort to inform folks about *Books to Grow With: A Guide to Using the Best Children's Fiction for Everyday Issues and Tough Challenges* (Lutra Press; July 2004; ISBN 0-9748025-7-3) focused on librarians, both public and school-based. After that, we began to reach out to teachers and school counselors. We'll continue our efforts in the fall, with presentations at the fall conferences of the Oregon Educational Media Association (school library media) and the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children.

Most recently, we began our general media efforts to reach parents, grandparents and other interested adults. In addition to a number of scheduled book parties and presentations, we're happy to announce that articles about *Books to Grow With* are appearing in newsletters and newspapers all over the United States, beginning with a syndicated column by Susan Reimer in the Baltimore Sun on August 29.

Books to Grow With will be discussed in the following upcoming media:

Valley Newspapers of Los Angeles (September)

Parent to Parent/United Media – Betsy Flagler column, syndicated throughout the U.S. (September 13)

Your Stepfamily Magazine (either Sept/Oct or Nov/Dec issue)

Kids Vermont (October issue)

Northwest Family News, Seattle (October issue)

Southern California Senior Life (November cover story)

Staten Island Parent, New York (November)

Nashville Parent Magazine, Tennessee (November)

Richmond Parents Monthly, Virginia (date to be determined)

Metro Family Magazine, Oklahoma (date to be determined)

Grandparenting Today (FM radio show) (date to be determined)

MetroParent Magazine of Wisconsin (date to be determined)

Asbury Park Press, New Jersey (date to be determined)

MetroKids of Philadelphia (date to be determined)

Dane County Kids, Madison, Wisconsin (date to be determined)

Metro Parent of Portland (date to be determined)

If you know of other media that might be interested, please let us know!

NEW BACK TO SCHOOL BOOKS:

Tom and Small: A Big Moment in a Little Boy's Life, by Clara Vulliamy. Trafalgar Square/Collins. 32 pages. 2004. ISBN 0007137885.

Lush and romantic illustrations combine with cheerful text to portray a young boy's worries about starting school the next day.

My Kindergarten, by Rosemary Wells. Hyperion. 96 pages. 2004. ISBN 0786808330.

Beloved author Rosemary Wells aptly portrays the range of experiences that are a part of the kindergarten year. From Back to School night to learning to read to community service, the anthropomorphic animal characters play, learn and grow together. Moreover, there are ample opportunities for learning activities contained within the story. Likely to inspire great enthusiasm in entering kindergartners!

Enrico Starts School, by Charlotte Middleton. Dial Books. 32 pages. 2004. ISBN 0803730179.

Another terrific choice for a new kindergartener, featuring anthropomorphic cats. Enrico, a four-year old, brims with confidence until he starts school. At school, he feels shy and insecure and has trouble making friends. Luckily, his younger brother offers Enrico some good advice--just be yourself—and finally Enrico succeeds in making a friend.

Ida B...and her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster and (Possibly) Save the World, by Katherine Hannigan. Harper/Collins/Greenwillow, 256 pages. 2004. ISBN 0060730250.

A wonderful story for an older child, in which the nine-year old narrator is a home-schooled girl who must enroll in public school in fourth grade. Other themes are presented as well, from parental illness to environmental activism, but at the heart of this moving novel is the universal theme of a child transitioning to young adulthood and coming to understand what matters in her world.

School Picture Day, by Lynn Plourde, illustrated by Thor Wickstrom. Puffin, 40 pages. 2004. ISBN 01442401501.

This cheerful story covers more than one theme; as the title implies it is about picture day. But the twist is that the heroine is too busy to get dressed for the day because she's more interested in her toolbox. In a ode to individuality, it's her toolbox, in the end, that saves the day. A humorous tale with cartoon illustrations.



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