

PAS WEEKLY

pennalexander.philasd.org

| Ms. Overton, Principal

| 215-400-7760

Upcoming Events:

Prospective K Open House

Wednesday, December 9,
9:30-10:30am

GSA

Thursday, December 10, 3:30pm

School Musical Student Info Mtg

Thursday, December 10, 3:15pm

EC Summer Reading Discussion

Thursday, December 10, 7pm

Student Grab & Go Meals

Friday, December 11, 9am-2pm

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Monday, December 14, 3:45pm

FACE Family Math Workshop

Tuesday, December 15, 5:30pm

EC Summer Reading Discussion

Tuesday, December 15, 7pm

EC Presents: Equity & PAS Community Conversation

Thursday, December 17, 7pm

PAS Family Quizzo Night

Friday, December 18, 7pm

Winter Recess Begins (Virtual School Closed)

Thursday, December 24

Winter Recess Ends (Virtual School ReOpens)

Monday, January 4



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL - Let's Close the Gap Together!

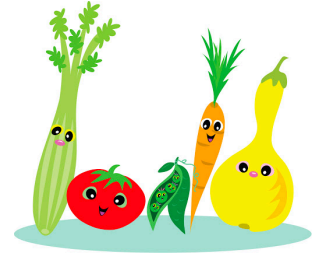
Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the generosity of the PAS community! On Tuesday, our community rallied together for Giving Tuesday, the daily day of giving, and met our challenge of garnering over 200 donors to support our school. **Now and through Wednesday December 9th, Bentley Systems and an anonymous donor have committed to matching all donations of our remaining 5,500 our our \$50,000 goal!** Please consider a donation to help support PAS during these uncertain times and your impact will be **DOUBLED**. We are so grateful and excited by the continuing generosity of our families. Your gift right now will qualify for the match, so a \$10, \$25 or \$100 gift will go twice as far.

Ways to Give:

- PayPal: hsatreasurerpas@gmail.com
- Venmo: @PennAlexanderHSA
- Check: PAS HSA, 219 St. Marks Square, Philadelphia PA 19104
- PAS HSA Giving Page: <https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/donation/>

Give Your Input - Grab & Go Meals

The School District is looking for feedback on its Grab & Go Meals program. It takes less than 5 minutes and asks families for on new pick up dates, times, and contents of the boxes (like fresh produce, cheeses, and eggs, and less processed and sugary offerings).



Grab & Go Meals Update

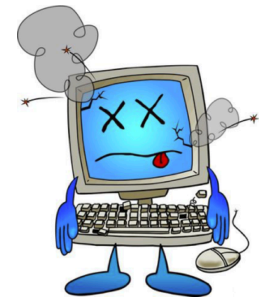
Meal Box Winter Updates for Distribution Day, Friday, December 11th:

Two additional entrees and Fresh Hand Fruit will be added to the meal distribution. Each Meal Box will contain 7 Breakfast and 7 Lunch Meals.



CHROMEBOOK ISSUES?

During the first weeks of online learning, we have noticed some students are still having difficulty with the loaned Chromebooks. If you would like assistance, please complete [this form](#).



Student Emergency/ Medical Form (S-865)

REMINDER, if you haven't completed the Student Emergency/ Medical Form for your child, please click on this link to complete the form: [Student Emergency/Medical Form](#). The nurse will include this information in your child's record. It is helpful to have this information for virtual as well as in-person learning.



GIVING AT PENN ALEXANDER SCHOOL

Your contributions support students, teachers, classrooms, and activities. We cannot do this without your generosity to fill in the immediate gaps while school is virtual.



FULL TIME ART PROGRAM

\$50,000

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

Books and materials to provide to every student during virtual learning



\$15,000

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



\$10,000

Support our school to be an equitable, inclusive, high performing learning space

\$5,000

We would like to fund one per grade at about \$500 for each grade this school year

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS



VIRTUAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

\$5,000

The show must go on! Virtual musical, 8th Grade Event, Virtual bingo, quizzo, trivia, math competition, spelling bees!

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

WAYS TO GIVE

 <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1470694479788059/>

 PayPal: hsatreasurerpas@gmail.com

 Venmo: @PennAlexander

HSA Website: <https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/donation/>
Check: Payable to PAS HSA, 219 St. Marks Square, Philadelphia PA 19104



December 6, 2020

Dear PAS community,

Thank you so much for turning out this Giving Tuesday! Over the month of Giving Tuesdays, we had over 200 donors! It is truly gratifying to see how much we are able to lean on each other during these stressful and difficult times.

Congratulations also to the 4th grade for winning the popsicle party! Details will go out soon on how that will happen safely.

We did not quite make our goal of \$50,000 so have one final challenge to get there. The PAS HSA pays for our art program as well as teacher programming, field trips and student initiatives. It is critical that we raise enough money to be able to fund those programs, especially as we are not able to hold events this year, which is our usual source of funding.

Thank you all again for holding up our community and supporting PAS. We are so grateful to be in this with you.

In community,

Jim Dugan, HSA President
Jennifer Nix, HSA Vice-President, Upper School
Rotonya Carr, HSA Vice-President, Lower School
Angela Curry, HSA Treasurer
Helena Miller, HSA Secretary
Christine Hill-Kayser, Room Parent Coordinator
Carrie Waterman, Fundraising Chair



2020 Month of Giving Tuesdays

Donations to the Home & School Association support academic and extracurricular programs at Penn Alexander.

Goal: \$50,000

My donation: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200

\$500 Other \$ _____

Ways to Give:

- ▶ **Online options (preferred):** *PayPal* (Penn Alexander Home and School Association); *Venmo* (@PennAlexanderHSA)
- ▶ **Other online options:** Donate by credit card online at <https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/donation/>
- ▶ **Check or Cash:** Enclose cash or a check with this form (please make checks payable to "PAS HSA") and put in the mail slot of 210 St. Mark's Square (the block near the main school entrance).
- ▶ **Stock transfer:** Please contact Angela Curry (hsatreasurerpas@gmail.com) for more information

Contact Info:

My name: _____

My email: _____

My address: _____

My company may match charitable donations; please contact me. Company Name: _____

My Student(s):

Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Grade: _____

Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Grade: _____

Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Grade: _____



Dear Penn Alexander Community,

We have exciting news! After many years of producing top-notch performances, Penn Alexander School will be performing **High School Musical Jr.** this spring! The show has engaged and excited audiences for years, and will be an excellent experience for this year's cast. The script is demanding for school students, but we believe the talent exists at Penn Alexander to deliver a virtual performance of this magnitude. A team of teachers and volunteers are ready to support the production in conjunction with parents and community.

Every year the Penn Alexander School staff has worked hard to improve the theater program, but also the experience of our performers. There are many elements that are necessary for producing a show, and every part is as important as the others. Without the dedicated teachers, parents, actors, musicians, artists, and crew we could not provide an entertaining experience for our audience.

We expect, as usual, that the auditions will be very competitive. While **High School Musical Jr.** has a large cast there are never enough cast parts for all those who wish to be in the show. We will have openings in the cast, chorus, and crew that we will fill with as many students as possible.

CAST: Auditions will be open to students in **Grades 6 to 8.**

CHORUS: Open to students in **Grades 4 to 5**

CREW: Open to students in **Grades 5 to 8**

There will be an informational meeting for students on DECEMBER 10th from 3:15-4:15.

On this day, students may learn more about the virtual performance and sign up for auditions. If you cannot attend the meeting, please email Ms. Lam or Ms. Larese for audition materials.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://philasd-org.zoom.us/j/87698420132?pwd=dFMyTjVUUXgzSmItM2dEMGljZ1hmdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 9842 0132

Passcode: musical

**A waiting room will be in place.*

Please make sure that your name is displayed for entry.

CAST AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER SCHOOL ON:

December 21st & 22nd

FROM 3:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

**Link will be shared when students sign up for an audition slot.*

*From the Directors,
Taylor Lam &
Tia Larese*

THE PAS EQUITY CIRCLE
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A
SUMMER
READING DISCUSSION



1619

**Thursday, December 10, 2020
7-8:30 PM
or
Tuesday, December 15, 2020
7-8:30 PM**

READINGS THAT WILL BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION:

1619: THE IDEA OF AMERICA

1619: TRAFFIC

OTHER TOPICS TO COVER:

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT RACE

READING LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/PASSummerReading2020>

ZOOM LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/SummerReadingDiscussion>

Meeting ID: 898 5143 5625, Passcode: 924885

PLEASE RSVP HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/SummerReadingSignUp20-21>

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ONE OR BOTH SESSIONS THIS MONTH!



Save the Date!

A Conversation on Equity in the PAS Community

**Thursday, December 17th
7:00pm-8:30pm**

Join us for a panel discussion and conversation about affordable housing, gentrification, and educational equity in West Philadelphia. We will discuss opportunities for advocacy and share resources including maps, reports, and videos.

More details forthcoming.

The event will be recorded and an edited version of the recording will be made available to the PAS community.



AFTERSCHOOL VIRTUAL BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE PROGRAM

12 WEEK PROGRAM BEGINNING JANUARY 11, 2021 FOR GRADES 3-8

Advanced science instruction taught by industry leaders to build students' knowledge base for future careers in science

- Programmed weekly content to include 60 minutes of live hands-on instruction
- Topics include artificial intelligence, botany, engineering design, and genetics
- All supplies to be provided
- Limited number of mobile devices provided to students in need
- Homeschooled students are welcome to apply
- Prizes for top participants include cash awards, computers and more

Admissions are rolling, but spaces are limited.

Application deadline: **December 18**

Application Link: <https://bit.ly/3kIJ1R8t>



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
OUR FIRST**

Math Is Everywhere!

**WORKSHOP FOR
FAMILIES**

**December 15th
5:30pm**

Math is Everywhere: Creating Math Joy at Home

This workshop will provide families of young children the opportunity to learn how to create math joy at home. They will learn about their own math identities, begin to explore the math that exists in their everyday lives, and discover ways to make math moments at home.

Click this [link](#) to join the session!

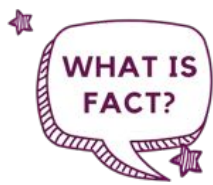
Family Academy: Virtual Courses and Training (FACT)

*Please Note: Beginning the week of October 19, 2020, there will no longer be multilingual Family Academy Online workshops on Thursdays. Instead, live interpretation can be requested for workshops in English on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at www.tinyurl.com/FACTinterpretation.



SHQIP | عربي | 汉语 | Français | Português | Русский | Español

Welcome to Family Academy!



FACT is offering virtual opportunities for parents to learn the skills and tools needed to support their child through any academic endeavor. Do you need tips for supporting your child’s remote learning? Or just a few tips to help deal with stress? Our courses can help you accomplish

your goals.

Looking for Past Courses?

[Click Here](#) for recorded sessions.

Join us on your own time!

Upcoming Virtual FACT Course List

Please click on the course title to access the webinar link.

*All sessions will be recorded and posted for future viewing.

	Week	Month	Agenda
Wednesday, December 2			
3:00pm			Safety Tips for Virtual Learning
Thursday, December 3			
5:30pm			Strategies for Parents at Home with Students to Support Engagement
Tuesday, December 8			
4:00pm			Find Your Future: College Readiness
Wednesday, December 9			
3:00pm			Find Your Future: A School District of Philadelphia Guide to Career Pathways
Thursday, December 10			
5:30pm			Check and Reflect Tool
Tuesday, December 15			
5:30pm			Math Is Everywhere: Creating Math Joy at Home
Wednesday, December 16			
3:00pm			School Profiles Website: Find and Interpret Data on Any School!

Calendar

Location: Now Virtual!

You spoke, we listened! This year, FACT started on the road and expanded out into your communities, allowing you to “Learn Where You Live.”



With schools and locations closed, we have decided to bring our “Learn Where You Live” plan one step further. We are offering virtual courses over Zoom that can be conveniently accessed from any internet enabled computer or mobile device. You can join us from the comfort of your own home!

Accessing our Virtual Courses

Feel free to join us for as many courses as you are able to attend. ***There is no need to preregister. Just join us on Zoom using the course’s meeting link.*** Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app [online](#) or in your device’s app store. Otherwise, you may be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click a link to join. We look forward to seeing you there!



Have any Questions?

Email Us: fact@philasd.org

Speak with us on social media:

[Facebook.com/sdpface](https://www.facebook.com/sdpface)

[Twitter.com/sdpface](https://twitter.com/sdpface)

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Philadelphia
440 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130
[215-400-4000](tel:215-400-4000)

Social Needs Response Team

If you are experiencing distress, have safety concerns, or need assistance with resources, such as food, transportation, or medications, the Penn Medicine COVID-19 Social Needs Response Team can help.

For questions & referrals:
please contact us at 267-785-2019
Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm.



Created in partnership with the Department of Case Management and Social Work and Department of Psychiatry





TRAPEZIUM MATH®
Club

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

**Join us Wednesday, December 2,
Monday, December 14 or
Tuesday, December 15
at 7:00 pm (EST) to:**

- See how Trapezium Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr. makes learning math online fun and engaging.
- Learn why Trapezium Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr. is decidedly “low tech” and why that’s a good thing.
- See how Trapezium Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr. prepares elementary students for success in middle school math and beyond!
- Hear about our plans for the next session beginning January 11th 2021.

[**Click Here to Register**](#)

LEARN
MUSIC



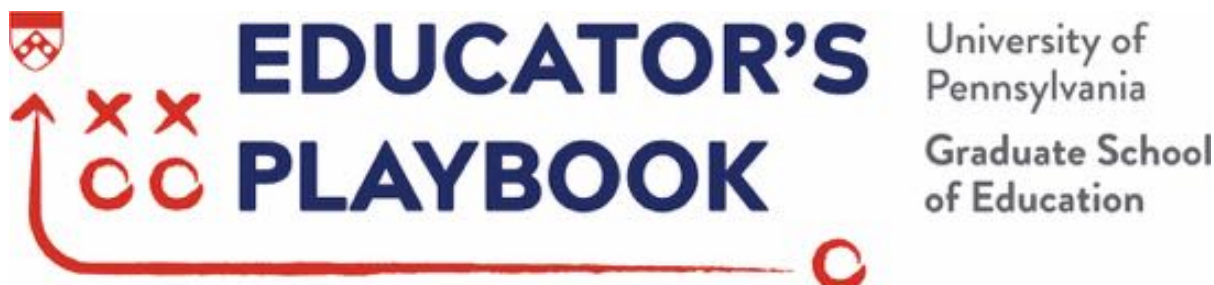
INSTRUMENT LESSONS - BEATS + REMIXES - MUSIC BIZ & MORE
GRADES 3 - 12 WE'LL GIVE YOU AN INSTRUMENT

FREE FOR PHILLY YOUTH

ROCKTOTHEFUTURE.ORG/PROGRAMS 215-302-9633



The Educator's Playbook

[View this email in your browser](#)

The best books of 2020 for young readers

This has been a difficult year for children — especially those living in communities that have been hit hardest by the pandemic and persistent racial and economic injustice.

That's why the power of stories to help us see new and better worlds is more important than ever before.

In choosing its sixth annual list of the Best Books for Young Readers, Penn GSE's Humanizing Stories team found authors and illustrators who told stories of love, joy, loss, strength, and resilience, and told them in a way that spoke to kids who have often been excluded from the whitewashed world of children's publishing.

In 2015, Penn GSE professor [Ebony Elizabeth Thomas](#), an expert in children's literature, created her first Best Books for Young Readers list. She wanted to showcase authors and illustrators who were dealing with issues like gender, race, ability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic class in ways that were real and empathetic.

In the ensuing years, Thomas' Humanizing Stories research team, the Superfriends, joined the effort by reviewing books throughout the year and weighing in on the annual list. This year, the Superfriends, guided by Rabani Garg and Christopher R. Rogers, offer examples of the children's literature they say we all need as we enter a still uncertain new year: books that move us beyond cycles of systemic harm and marginalization. These books, by their very existence, offer a hopeful vision of a more inclusive and just future world.

Here is what the Superfriends have to say about this year's selections:

Young Adult

The YA category is burgeoning with diverse literature, both in terms of the stories it tells and who is telling the story. Our picks in the Young Adult section include books that highlight intersectionalities within which young adults' experiences are nested. Books like *How It All Blew Up* (Arvin Ahmadi) offer a nuanced look at intersectional identity through a narrative that is both heart wrenching and hilarious. In Samira Ahmed's book *Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know*, we found a resonance in her protagonist's questions: "Who has the right to tell their story?" and "What does it mean to listen to people on their own terms and see them in the way that they want to be seen and represented?" In *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*, Rebekah Taussig asks readers to see disability as both complex and ordinary.

- [All Boys Aren't Blue](#) (George M Johnson; Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
- [Clap When You Land](#) (Elizabeth Acevedo; Thorndike Striving Reader)
- [How It All Blew Up](#) (Arvin Ahmadi; Viking Books for Young Readers)
- [Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know](#) (Samira Ahmed; Soho Teen)
- [Punching the Air](#) (Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam; Balzer + Bray)
- [Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body](#) (Rebekah Taussig; HarperOne)
- [The Night Watchman](#) (Louise Erdrich; Harper)
- [The Black Kids](#) (Christina Hammonds Reed; Simon & Schuster)
- [Super Fake Love Song](#) (David Yoon; G.P. Putnam's Sons)
- [The Chaos Curse \(Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond #3\)](#) (Sayantani DasGupta; Scholastic Press)

- [Woven in Moonlight](#) (Isabel Ibañez; Page Street Kids)

Graphic

Our 2020 Graphic Novel picks are apropos to the time, and highlight how intergenerational stories, our old stories, carry us forward and bring us together. From *Banned Book Club* (Kim Hyun Sook, Ryan Estrada & illustrator Hyung-Ju Ko), a tribute to young people's activism and resistance, to *You Brought Me the Ocean* (Alex Sánchez), a book about rebelling against conformity, this year's graphic novel picks surprise and delight.

- [Banned Book Club](#) (Kim Hyun Sook & Ryan Estrada, illustrated by Hyung-Ju Ko; Iron Circus Comics)
- [Class Act](#) (Jerry Craft; Quill Tree Books)
- [Displacement](#) (Kiku Hughes; First Second)
- [Dragon Hoops](#) (Gene Luen Yang; First Second)
- [Flamer](#) (Mike Curato; Henry Holt and Co. [BYR])
- [Lift](#) (Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat; Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- [Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel](#) (Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Danica Novgorodoff; Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books)
- [The Magic Fish](#) (Trung Le Nguyen; Random House Graphic)
- [Twins](#) (Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright; Graphix)
- [You Brought Me the Ocean](#) (Alex Sánchez, illustrated by Julie Maroh; DC Comics)

Middle Grade

This year's Middle Grades selections bring underrepresented histories and stories to the shelf while tackling thorny conversations across multiple forms of difference. We loved the humorous and heartfelt story of *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* (Jessica Kim), featuring a protagonist who must amass courage and claim self-definition to pursue her dream of being a stand-up comedian. We enjoyed an independently published bilingual text, Mya Pagán and Laura Rexach's *Ellas*, which highlights the sorely underrepresented (her)story of Puerto Rican women changemakers in a current moment where women-and-femme-led resistance on the island has never been stronger. We're excited by the landscape of stories for older children and teens!

- [Any Day with You](#) (Mae Respicio; Wendy Lamb Books)
- [Ellas: Historias de mujeres puertorriqueñas](#) (Laura Rexach, illustrated by Mya Pagán; Editorial Destellos) (Bilingüe)

- [*Efrén Divided*](#) (Ernesto Cisneros; Quill Tree Books)
- [*From the Desk of Zoe Washington*](#) (Janae Marks; Katherine Tegen Books)
- [*Rick*](#) (Alex Gino; Scholastic Press)
- [*Say Her Name*](#) (Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Loveis Wise; Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- [*Show Me a Sign*](#) (Ann Clare Lezotte; Scholastic Press)
- [*Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*](#) (Jessica Kim; Kokila)
- [*The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth*](#) (Cheryl Willis & Wade Hudson, editors; Crown Books for Young Readers)
- [*Ways to Make Sunshine*](#) (Renée Watson, illustrated by Nina Mata; Bloomsbury Children's Books)

Picturebooks

The Picturebooks we selected illustrate the values and cultural traditions of resistance that we must hold dear while documenting the loving ways we must strive to create beauty in the everyday. *The Paper Kingdom* (Helena Ku Rhee) weaves together brilliant illustrations with a fantastical tale of a young child making beauty from constraint as they hang with working parents for an evening shift. *My Rainbow* (Deshanna Neal & Trinity Neal) focuses on a mother (Deshanna) who seeks to honor that her autistic, trans daughter Trinity knows herself best and with mom's help, a beautiful rainbow wig is the right magic to reflect her true vision for herself.

- [*Black Is a Rainbow Color*](#) (Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekoa Holmes; Roaring Book Press)
- [*Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away*](#) (Meg Medina, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez; Candlewick)
- [*Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon*](#) (Simran Jeet Singh, illustrated by Baljinder Kaur; Kokila)
- [*My Rainbow*](#) (Deshanna Neal & Trinity Neal, illustrated by Art Twink; Kokila)
- [*Nibi is Water*](#) (Joanne Robertson; Second Story Press)
- [*Okapi Tale*](#) (Jacob Kramer, illustrated by K-Fai Steele; Enchanted Lion Books)
- [*The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story*](#) (Tina Cho, illustrated by Jess X. Snow; Kokila)
- [*The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*](#) (Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora; Schwartz & Wade)

- [The Paper Kingdom](#) (Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Pascal Campion; Random House Books for Young Readers)
- [Tiara's Hat Parade](#) (Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell; Albert Whitman & Company)
- [We Are Water Protectors](#) (Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade; Roaring Book Press)
- [Your Name Is a Song](#) (Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Luisa Uribe; Innovation Press)

Penn GSE students and Humanizing Stories research team members Nadya Eades and Mara Imms-Donnelly assisted Rabani Garg and Christopher R. Rogers in compiling the list. We also thank Dr. Marilisa Jimenez Garcia (Lehigh University) and NCTE member and educator Cody Miller for providing feedback on titles. (Dr. Ebony Elizabeth Thomas recused herself from our selection process this year, due to her service on the 2020 National Book Awards Young People's Literature judges' panel.)

Join the conversation

Rabani Garg and Christopher R. Rogers will discuss the year's Best Books at noon December 4.

[Click here to Register.](#)



Penn Graduate School of Education
3700 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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