

Book Club Afterschool is held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The hours are from school dismissal until 5:00 pm. The program is run in eight-week cycles; the fee for each cycle is \$300. The program's schedule follows the DOE school calendar, so if there is no school, there is no Book Club. The program does not meet on days when there are afternoon Parent/Teacher conferences. Your child does not have to know how to read to sign up for and enjoy Book Club!

Below are *general guidelines* for the content of Book Club Afterschool; I am flexible and adaptable to the consensus of the group. I stress that this is a program that is meant to be fun for the children. There will be NO PRESSURE to read or achieve at a level or pace that is not comfortable for each child. It is my goal to have the children explore new books and challenge themselves to the degree that they want to in a friendly group setting. I want to add that this is a program that younger children enjoy when they have a friend with them, so please feel free to pass along this information to anyone who might be interested in having their child join yours.

Younger children attend on Mondays and Wednesdays - this group will include Kindergarten, First and some Second grade students. On these days, the focus of Book Club will be on emerging readers and on learning about ourselves as readers - what do we like to read, how do we choose books, and the connections between the books we read and love. These sessions will consist of one or more picture book read-alouds, a longer book read aloud over several weeks, and book talk. We always color and draw together for part of the session, and we have other literacy-based activities, such as making a picture book of our own. **The Monday dates for the first cycle are: September 18 and 25; October 2, 16, 23 and 30 and November 6 and 13.**

The Wednesday dates for the first cycle are September 20 and 27; October 4, 11, 18 and 25, and November 1 and 8.

Upper-grade students and more-established readers meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesdays are suggested for Second and Third grade students, with Thursdays for Fourth and Fifth grade students only. These sessions will also feature the shared reading, on these days of a longer novel or series, with discussion. We also usually take time to talk about what we are reading independently, mostly to broaden everyone's exposure to good books. Generally, these groups also enjoy a picture book, which I encourage. This group also has the chance to sketch and draw during our read-aloud. **The Tuesday dates for the first cycle are: September 19 and 26; October 3, 10, 17 and 24, and November 14 and 21. Even though October 31 is not a school holiday, I have found that attendance is negligible on Halloween.**

Thursday dates for the first cycle are September 14 and 28; October 5, 12, 19, and 26, and November 2 and 9.

In this fun and friendly environment, all of the children build reading stamina, practice their re-telling skills and have a chance to simply enjoy the essential pleasure of hearing a good story.

Logistics:

At dismissal, the children are dropped off by their eighth-period teacher to me at a designated table in the cafeteria; they are supervised while we wait for the entire group to gather. I maintain

a list of children who are attending, and the classroom teachers and I stay in touch in the first weeks to make sure everyone knows where to go. We then go to Room 308, where the students relax, have a snack that I provide and chat for a short time. After this we usually read and discuss our picture book(s) for that week. Then we move on to our longer shared read. Taking my cues from the children, we will stop to discuss - or plow through if everyone is on the edge of their seats!

I have a small office/closet two doors down from Room 308, and we conclude each session by walking there as a group; everyone can borrow a book if they want to. I encourage the children to choose a book they really want, but I do gently guide them away from books that are distinctly not going to be right for them. I also readily and gladly give recommendations, and I try to make sure I have books that all of the children will really want to read.

We finish a few minutes before 5 pm, at which time I bring the children down to the vestibule area between the entrance doors to the school and the security desk. The school requests that you not enter the school to pick up your child, which helps reduce the number of people coming in and out. If you need to pick your child up early, you may sign in and come to Room 308 to pick them up.

As stated above, the fee for each eight week session is \$300, payable by check to me, Lee Burnley. I accept cash but not credit cards, and I use Venmo, an easy-to-use payment app that I suggest - it makes life very easy when you need to remit or receive any sort of payment. I have a mailbox in the main office, and you can leave payments and your registration forms there. You can also return them to me at pick up in the first week/s, or you can have your child deliver them to me. I will email all families when we are getting close to the end of the cycle so that you can renew registration.

My phone number is (646) 221-8385, and you may call or text me any time with questions or comments. It is immensely helpful if you let me know if your child will not be coming on a particular day, and I am extremely fond of prompt pick up. I will use this opportunity to ask you to please be on time to pick up your child. If you are running late - I understand that things happen - text to let me know, so that your student and I will know that you're on your way. My phone is always with me, but I do not check email while teaching.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a literacy enrichment teacher and a substitute teacher at PS41. The 2017-18 school year will be my sixth as a staff member, but I am also a former PS41 parent. After leaving 41, my daughter went to IS89 and Beacon High School; my son went to Salk School of Science and will be a Senior at Beacon this year. A year ago, my daughter graduated from my alma mater, the University of Rochester, and she now has a job (and her own health insurance!) I believe passionately in the value of a public school education and feel particularly fortunate to have had my children in the PS41 community and to still be a part of it today.

