

# Library News

*Park Terrace Elementary*

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That is a good book,  
which is opened  
with  
expectation and  
closed in profit.

## An Award Winning Month

January is an exciting month as librarians throughout the world eagerly await the announcement of the winners of the 2008 Caldecott and Newbery.

Frederic G. Melcher first proposed the Newbery award in 1922. He suggested that it be named for the eighteenth-century English bookseller John Newbery. Newbery worked to improve the quality of books for children and was one of the first to provide books for children to read for pleasure rather than instruction. In Melcher's formal proposal for the Newbery Medal he stated that the award's purpose was the following: "To encourage original creative work in the field of books for children. To emphasize to the public that contributions to the literature for children deserve similar recognition to poetry, plays, or novels. To give those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field."

The Newbery Award became the first children's book award in the world. Its terms, as well as its long history, continue to make it the best known and most discussed children's book award. The medal is given to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The author must be a citizen or resident of the United States. A committee selects the winning book from those published the previous year. Thus the 2008 winner will have been published in 2007. The award is given for the quality of the writing and often the winning title deals with a serious theme. Although most of the winners are fiction, biographies, poetry books, and nonfiction books have won.

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## The Caldecott Medal

Frederic G. Melcher suggested in 1937 the establishment of a second annual medal, the Caldecott Medal, as many people became concerned that the artists creating picture books for children were as deserving of honor and encouragement as were the authors of children's books. This medal "shall be awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American Picture Book for Children published in the United States during the preceding year." It was named in honor of the nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph J. Caldecott. He was one of the first to focus on a single story, integrating the pictures with the text so that they enhanced each other. This idea was also enthusiastically accepted and approved by the American Library Association.

The Caldecott Medal is for the pictures, not the text, so often the winning book can be for older children and the artist is not always the author. For example, the 2001 winner was David Small for [So You Want to Be President?](#) The book was written by Judith St. George and is classified nonfiction. In contrast, the 2005 winner was Kevin Henkes who won for [Kitten's First Full Moon](#), which he wrote and illustrated and is found in the Everybody section.

There is no limit to the number of "runners up" that can be named an Honor Book for both awards. Usually there are one to three each year. Some years none are named.

Separate committees to choose the Newbery and Caldecott Awards were established in 1978 and began with the 1980 selection committees.

### **And the Newberry Award goes to...**

[Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village](#) by Laura Amy Schlitz

### **Three Newbery Honor Books were named...**

[Elijah of Buxton](#) written by Christopher Paul Curtis

[The Wednesday Wars](#) written by Gary D. Schmidt

[Feathers](#) written by Jacqueline Woodson

### **And the Caldecott Award goes to...**

[The Invention of Hugo Cabret](#) illustrated by Brian Selznick

### **Four Caldecott Honor Books were named...**

[Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad](#) illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Ellen Levine

[First the Egg](#) illustrated and written by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

[The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain](#) illustrated and written by Peter Sis

[Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity](#) illustrated and written by Mo Willems