Dear Parents,

This is a suggested list of the newest (2020) and highly regarded books of (2019) picture books and nonfiction. These are appropriate for all grades K-4 with intention for conversation pieces.

The fiction is listed with grade appropriate levels. It is a suggestion as not all students read at the same level or have the same interests.

Enjoy!

Millburn School Librarians
Rachel Morling - South Mountain & Wyoming
Hope Shuster - Glenwood & Hartshorn
Eleanor Stamenov - Deerfield
Shea Stansfield Williams - Glenwood
Picture Books

*All Are Welcome* - by Alexandra Penfold, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman A group of diverse students is shown throughout the school day having fun together, with an emphasis on how all are welcome. The story ends at a neighborhood gathering where all are welcome!

*Alma and How she Got her Name* - by Juana Martinez-Neal Alma learns the stories behind the wonderful people who influenced her name.

*Another* - written and illustrated by Christian Robinson A girl and her cat pass into a parallel universe filled with multiethnic children at play. Joyously painted collages may be “read” in multiple directions.
Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. Native American children learn how to make traditional fry bread while being introduced to their history and culture. Vibrant acrylic and pencil illustrations. Author’s recipe and extensive notes.

Going Down Home with Daddy by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Daniel Minter. Lil Alan is eager to see Granny at the family reunion, but he fears he has nothing to share. Acrylic illustrations with a blue wash.

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero, illustrated by Zeke Peña. Daisy and her papi take a spin on his motorcycle, taking in the sights and sounds of their beloved neighborhood.

Ojiichan’s Gift by Chieri Uegaki, illustrated by Genevieve Simms. Mayumi’s Japanese grandfather builds her a special stone garden. When he can no longer live in his own home, she makes a garden for him. Evocative watercolors.
The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S. K. Ali, illustrated by Hatem Aly Faizah’s older sister, Asiya, is a princess. She certainly looks like one on her first day of sixth grade and her first day wearing her beautiful, bold blue headscarf to school.

Saturday - by Oge Mora Ava’s mom works all week long, but Saturday is their special day off! When their plans don’t go as expected, can Ava and her mom still have a perfect day?

Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Méndez, illustrated by Jaime Kim A young girl is asked where she is from, so she turns to her abuelo for help answering and gets a very unexpected response.

Non Fiction - All Ages/Grades

Blooming beneath the Sun by Christina Rossetti, illustrated by Ashley Bryan A Caitlyn Dlouhy Elegant rhythmic poems describe the world around us and stimulate the imagination. Brilliantly colored, dynamic cut-paper collage illustrations.
Carter G. Woodson, born into poverty in 1875 to formerly enslaved parents, championed the heretofore unacknowledged history of African Americans. Simple, powerful mixed-media illustrations.

The Complete Baking Book for Young Chefs by America’s Test Kitchen

Sourcebooks Explore, Young aspiring chefs will find many interesting recipes and additional information. Colorful photographs, charts, and cooking tips.

Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael López. Colorful mixed-media illustrations accompany this account of a Venezuelan immigrant’s career as a gifted young pianist during the 19th century.

How to Read a Book by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Neon colors and elaborate collage art illustrate this lively tribute to the joy of reading.
Instructions Not Included: How a Team of Women Coded the Future by Tami Lewis Brown and Debbie Loren Dunn, illustrated by Chelsea Beck. Three women “math whizzes” had to overcome obstacles to program one of the first computers. Told in free verse with retro illustrations. Includes biographical back matter and resources.

Nose Knows: Wild Ways Animals Smell the World by Emmanuelle Figueras, illustrated by Claire de Gastold. Learn how the nose and scent play a crucial role in animals’ survival and behavior. Oversized realistic illustrations, interactive format. Index.

Popcorn Country: The Story of America’s Favorite Snack by Cris Peterson, photographed by David R. Lundquist. Popcorn can only be created from a specific strain of corn. Bright, clear photographs depict the journey of this treat from farm to product to its consumption.
Summer - by Cao Wenxuan, illustrated by Yu Rong Readers find out how some of their favorite animals stay cool during the summertime in this whimsical, poetic book.

The Spacesuit: How a Seamstress Helped Put Man on the Moon by Alison Donald, illustrated by Ariel Landy. Meet Ellie Foraker and learn how she made the special spacesuits for the Apollo astronauts. Whimsical illustrations.

You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks written and illustrated by Evan Turk A lyrical invitation for all children to enjoy and visit the fauna, flora, and grandeur of our national parks. Evocative, intense pastels showcase 27 of them. Back matter.
**Fiction (Grades K-2)**

*Bo and the Dragon-Pup* (Branches: Unicorn Diaries, Book 2) by Rebecca Elliot. Rainbow Tinseltail (called Bo) has never actually seen a dragon, but when things start going missing from Sparklegrove School for Unicorns all clues seem to point to a dragon pup named Scorch. (Grades 2+)

*Hilo. Book 6, All the Pieces Fit* (Hilo, Book 6) by Judd Winick. After discovering the truth about how he lost his memories and Dr. Horizon's true identity, Hilo goes back to Earth and tries to prevent Razorwark from destroying the world—and everyone in it. (Grades 2+, Graphic Novel)

*Mia Mayhem vs. the Mighty Robot* by Kara West, illustrated by Leeza Hernandez. Mia’s best friend, Eddie, has built an awesome robot that's supposed to be a mighty cleaning machine! And at first, everything runs smoothly as the robot helps around the house and at regular school! But things quickly go haywire when Mia accidentally makes the robot grow three times its normal size. (Grades 2+)
**Narwhal on a Sunny Night** (Magic Tree House, Book 33) by Mary Pope Osborne, Illustrated by AG Ford. The magic tree house whisks Jack and Annie away to Greenland where they discover they've traveled back in time to meet Lief Erikson. (Grades 2+)

*Pedro Keeps his Cool* (Pedro Series) by Fran Manuskin. It's winter festival time! There are games, a snowman contest, skating, and of course, treats. But the festival isn't much fun for Pedro. His snow dog is a flop, and he falls flat on the ice. Will Pedro keep his cool and find a way to have fun? (Grades 1+)

**Sadiq and the Desert Star** (Sadiq Series) by Siman Nuurali, illustrated by Anjan Sarkar. Sadiq's father is going on a business trip, but before he goes he tells Sadiq a story of the Desert Star, which fits in perfectly with Sadiq's third grade class field trip to the planetarium, and inspires Sadiq to build a simple telescope to study the stars when his father returns. (Grades 1+)
**Speedah-Cheetah** (Binder of Doom, Book 3) by Troy Cummings. Alexander, Nikki, and Rip can't wait to build their race cars for the Stermont Derby! In fact, everyone in town is excited to enter the big race -- even a speedy, hungry monster! (Grades 2+)

**Stargazing** by Jen Wang. Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness. (Grades 2+, Graphic Novel)

**The Best Baker** (Katie Woo's Neighborhood) by Fran Manuskin, illustrated by Laura Zarrin. Katie and her friend Haley are bragging about being good bakers. Their moms don't quite agree. Haley's uncle owns the Happy Cakes bakery and is willing to teach the girls what it takes to be a great baker. Will Katie and Haley become the best bakers and impress their moms? (Grades 1+)

**The Colorado Curveball** (Ballpark Mysteries, Book 16) by David A. Kelly, illustrated by Mark Meyers. Cousins Mike and Kate investigate after someone threatens to tamper with the scoreboard right before the Colorado Rockies' season opener. (Grades 2+)
**Who is the Mystery Reader? : The Big Story!** (Unlimited Squirrels Series) by Mo Willems. As Zoom Squirrel and his friends try to identify the mystery reader, they learn about books, how they are written, and how to read--while sharing a-corny jokes. (Grades K+)

**Yasmin the Friend!** - by Saadia Faruqi, illustrated by Hatem Aly Meet Yasmin, a bright, fun Pakistani American second grader. With her oversize imagination and a little help from her family, there’s no problem she can’t solve. (Grade 1+)

**The Bad Guys in the Baddest Day Ever** (Bad Guys, Book 10) by Aaron Blabey. The Bad Guys and even Badder Girls might have been knocked down, but does that mean they'll stay down? No way, chicos! Pull on your party pants -- it's the ultimate battle between Bad and Baaaaaad! (Grades 3+, Graphic Novel)
Fiction (Grades 3 & 4)

*Cape* (The League of Secret Heroes series) by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Patrick Spaziante. All the great comic book superheroes disappear from Philadelphia until schoolgirls Josie, Mae, and Akiko meet. Sparks fly and so do they. Intermittent action-packed graphic illustrations. (Grades 3+, Graphic Novel)

*Caterpillar Summer* by Gillian McDunn, illustrated by Alisa Coburn. After their father dies, Cat is responsible for her brother, Chicken, who is on the autism spectrum. Only when she meets their grandparents does she get to be a child again. Intermittent black-and-white illustrations. (Grades 3+)

*Emily Windsnap and the Tides of Time* (Emily Windsnap, Book 9) by Liz Kessler, illustrated by Erin Farley. Traveling home by cruise ship should be a relaxing break after Emily's latest adventure, but things take a turn when the ship is overtaken by a pirate king and his crew. (Grades 3+)
Knights vs. the End (of everything) (Knights vs., Book 3) by Matt Phelan. The four daring knights and one intrepid archer enter the Faerie Realm, where they find dangerous warlocks, a mysterious knight, and one very nasty dragon. (Grades 3+)

Leaving Lymon by Lesa Cline-Ransome. Raised by his grandparents, first in Mississippi then in Wisconsin, ten-year-old Lymon moves to Chicago in 1945 to live with the mother he never knew, while yearning for his father. (Grade 3+)

My Life as a Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi, illustrated by Anthony Piper. In the summer of 1984, twelve-year-old Ebony-Grace of Huntsville, Alabama, visits her father in Harlem, where her fascination with outer space and science fiction interfere with her finding acceptance. (Grade 4+)

The Last Kids on Earth and the Midnight Blade (Last Kids On Earth, Book 5) by Max Brallier, illustrated by Douglas Holgate. Surviving their first winter after the Monster Apocalypse was no easy feat, yet Jack and his buddies waste no time springing to action against some of the nastiest, most evil monsters around. (Grades 3+)
The One and Only Bob by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Casteleo.
Sequel to: The one and only Ivan. A scrappy dog named Bob and his best friends, Ivan the gorilla and Ruby the elephant, undertake a dangerous journey to seek Bob’s long-lost sister, but a storm is approaching and time is running out. (Grade 3+)

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller by Tae Keller. Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother. (Grade 3+)