

**Manhattan Beach Unified School District**  
**2017 Summer Pleasure Reading**  
**Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists**  
**For Students Entering Grades 1 and 2**

**Picture Books**

***Leave Me Alone!*** by Vera Brosgol (2016)

Grandmother just wants a little peace and quiet so she can finish her knitting, but she must journey to the moon and beyond to avoid a variety of distractions.

***Charlotte and the Quiet Place,*** by Deborah Sosin (2015)

A great story to remind ourselves and our children that sometimes we need a break from our busy world. This is particularly relevant to MBUSD students, who have been encouraged to practice mindfulness.

***The Uncorker of Bottles,*** by Michelle Cuevas (2016)

This beautifully illustrated story is about a man who lives by the sea and waits patiently all day watching the waves for letters in bottles that wash ashore. He delivers the messages near and far, yet no letter has ever come for him.

***Pond,*** by Jim LaMarche (2016)

A group of friends restores a pond in this beautifully illustrated environmental story.

***Circus Ship,*** by Chris Van Dusen (2009)

Loosely based on a true story about a circus ship that wrecks at sea, this story illustrates the bonds that form between humans and animals. A great lesson in kindness.

**Books in a Series**

***Groovy Joe,*** by Eric Litwin

***Ice Cream and Dinosaurs*** (2016) Groovy Joe, a very upbeat dog, encounters three dinosaurs who want to eat his doggy ice cream. Before long Joe has everyone singing and sharing. This new series from the creators of *Pete the Cat* is for the youngest readers. It reinforces concepts of kindness and making the best of any situation. Watch for ***Dance Party Countdown*** in September 2017.

***Elephant & Piggie Like Reading!*** various authors

***The Cookie Fiasco,*** by Dan Santat (2016)

There are only three cookies and four hungry friends to share them. This is not good! This is not equal!

***We Are Growing!*** by Laurie Keller (2016)

Observing how his fast-growing friends are becoming the tallest, curliest, or silliest members of their grass patch while he appears to stay the same, spindly little grass blade Walt discovers his own special distinctiveness in the wake of a big surprise.

***The Good for Nothing Button***, by Mo Willems (2017)

Yellow Bird has a button. It does...nothing! Red Bird and Blue Bird discover when they try it, it makes them happy...which is something! The power of imaginative play is explored as Yellow Bird gets madder and madder.

***Sam the Man***, by Frances O’Roark Dowell

***Sam the Man and the Chicken Plan*** (2016)

When seven-year-old Sam Graham, eager for some spending money, volunteers to look after a neighbor's chickens, the experience inspires him to get his own chicken.

***Sam the Man and the Rutabaga Plan*** (2017)

Assigned to "babysit" a rutabaga as part of a school project, second-grader Sam initially disdains the unattractive veggie. When he comes to learn it’s not half-bad, he realizes he must come up with a plan to keep it happy before it rots.

## Chapter Books

***What’s Up, Chuck?*** by Leo Landry (2016)

Chuck Wood is a talented woodchuck: his carvings have won the “Best in the Forest” art competition three years in a row. When Scooter Possum, an abstract painter, moves in, Chuck feels threatened. What does Chuck value most—trophies, or friendship and art?

***Juana and Lucas***, by Juana Medina (2016)

Juana lives in Bogotá, Colombia, with her dog Lucas. She is learning to speak English in school but doesn’t think she needs to. Spanish words are interspersed with the English text. Winner of the 2017 Pura Belpré Author Award.

## Nonfiction

***I Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are***, by Bridget Heos (2014)

A fun way to learn about flies—both the good and the bad. Fun illustrations and text make this an easy way to present nonfiction.

***Octopuses One to Ten***, by Ellen Jackson (2016)

A great nonfiction book for both beginning and more advanced readers. Simple text provides number-based facts about octopuses, while more in-depth information off to the side can be shared by adults and children together.