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NOTE: PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE OF ALL AUTHORS AND ENTERTAINERS. PLEASE CONTACT HENRY MCCOY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL RETURNS SEPTEMBER 17

*Authors, Illustrators and More to be Featured at Free Outdoor Event at the
Columbus Public Library*

(Columbus, GA) – The Columbus Children's Book Festival, voted by *Muscogee Moms* readers as one of the area's premier family events, returns to the grounds of the Columbus Public Library on Macon Road on Saturday, September 17th, 2016. The event is free and open to the public.

Tens of thousands have attended the previous three festivals featuring nationally known writers of children's and teen books, as well as illustrators, entertainers, crafts and more.

This year's Festival promises to be even bigger with well-known authors, illustrators and entertainers coming to town for free presentations and autograph sessions that are designed for the whole family. Books will be for sale, as will food, beverages and snacks.

Complete event information, including author and performer schedules can be found on the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries' website www.cvlga.org. Interested parties may also contact the Library at 706-243-2669.

FEATURED AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

The featured authors and illustrators represent some of the most famous and most highly-regarded talent working in the field of children's literature and entertainment, including:

- Author **JON SCIEZSKA**, the legendary fan favorite author of such books as *The Stinky Cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Tales*, the *Trucktown* and *Spaceheadz* series, and the immortal classic *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. Mr. Scieszka was the first

National Ambassador of Young People's Literature and helped found the national reading program GUYS READ.

- The Queen of the Dorks herself, author **RACHEL RENEE RUSSELL** who first created Nikki Maxwell and the *Dork Diaries* series in 2009. The twelfth book in the series, *Tales from a Not-So-Friendly Frenemy*, will debut in October 2016. The books have sold over fifteen million copies worldwide and have been translated into 32 different languages. SPECIAL BONUS! Joining Ms. Russell will be her daughters **ERIN & NIKKI RUSSELL**, the inspirations for the original Dork Diaries who now help their mother run the Dork Empire.
- Living Legend **NORTON JUSTER**, whose classic Young Adult novel *The Phantom Tollbooth* first premiered in 1961. An architect and professor by trade, he also had a second career as an author of books for all ages, including *The Dot and the Line: A Romance in Lower Mathematics*, *The Odious Ogre*, and the Caldecott Medal-winning *The Hello, Goodbye Window*.
- **JOE CEPEDA**, acclaimed international artist, illustrator and speaker. Mr. Cepeda, illustrator of 35+ children's books including works authored by Toni Morrison, Elizabeth Swados and others, is known for his highly entertaining children's programs and will be one of the big hits of our Festival.
- Banjo-plucking music guy **MR. GREG** will bring his MUSICAL MADNESS tour to the Festival stage. A "Parents Choice" award winner, his program can be seen nationwide on PBS affiliates.
- Galactic Quest Comic Books *Herocats* creators **KYLE PUTTKAMMER** and **MARCUS WILLIAMS**

ENTERTAINMENT AND OTHER EVENTS

Joining the Festivities will be entertainers such as **Adam the Juggler**, favorite magician **Arthur Atsma**, storyteller **BabaTunde**. and an incredible puppet show with **All Hands Productions**. There will also be character greetings with some of your favorite book characters like Clifford the Big Red Dog, Madeline and the Berenstain Bear siblings throughout the day.

Additional activities during the event include **Craft-O-Mania**, a series of craft projects for children inspired by the Festival authors, and the **Simple Steps Garden**, an area of play, reading and crafts for babies, toddlers and the pre-schoolers.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Festival will run from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday, September 17th. The event will happen rain or shine.

The Festival kicks off with an opening ceremony at 10:00am awarding area students who participated in the annual Children's Book Festival Young Writers Contest.

The author's appearances will be as follows. All authors will appear in the Festival Main Event Tent located on the front lawn of the Library, with autograph sessions immediately following their presentations:

10:30am **MR. GREG'S MUSICAL MADNESS**

11:30am	JOHN SCIEZSKA
12:30pm	RACHEL RENEE RUSSELL
1:30pm	NORTON JUSTER
2:30pm	JOE CEPEDA

Galactic Quest Comics will have their own tent and will be meeting fans throughout the day.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BOOKSTORE

One of the Libraries' support groups, The Muscogee County Friends of Libraries, will be running the Festival Bookstore during the event. Books from all of the featured authors, plus additional works, will be on sale. This will be a prime opportunity to pick up books to be autographed by your favorite author. The Store will accept cash and Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards.

SPONSORS FOR THE EVENT

A wide range of community organizations have agreed to sponsor the event this year, including: The Muscogee County Library Foundation, Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance, Star Family Foundation, Aflac, the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries, The Georgia Council for the Arts, Norfolk Southern, The Housing Authority of Columbus, GA, Publix Supermarket Charities, Muscogee Moms, WRBL News Leader 3, the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, Sunny 100, and Outfront Media.

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