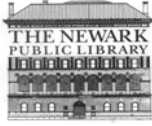


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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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Renowned Children's Author to Visit all 11 Newark Public Library Branches

Children's author Daniel Kirk is bringing his world in which "Dogs Rule!" cats have power and there's a book-writing mouse that lives in a library to the Newark Public Library in August.

The author-illustrator will spend five days in Newark, visiting each of the Library's 11 branches. He will share his poems, stories and songs with children and their families at each branch and will lead the children in a drawing game that will help them create a character of their own.

"Mr. Kirk is a very talented author and illustrator. We're delighted that Mr. Kirk can spend so much time with us and that he has arranged his schedule to visit with the children who use each of our branches," said Library Director Wilma J. Grey. Kirk is known for his stories, poems and illustrations, particularly *Dogs Rule! Cat Power*, and *Library Mouse*.

Kirk's series of visits starts Tuesday, August 12 with stops at the Madison Branch, 790 Clinton Avenue (973-733-8090) at 11 a.m. and the Springfield Branch, 50 Hayes Street (973-733-7736) at 2 p.m. On Wednesday, August 13, Kirk visits the First Avenue Branch, 282 First Avenue (973-733-8091) at 2 p.m. and the North End Branch, 722 Summer Avenue (973-733-7683) at 4 p.m.

On Thursday, August 14, the author will stop at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street (973-733-7797) at 11 a.m. and at the Branch Brook Branch, 235 Clifton Avenue (973-733-6388) at 2 p.m. Kirk stops at the Roseville Branch, 99 Fifth Street (973-733-7770) at 11 a.m. and at the Vailsburg Branch, 75 Alexander Street (973-733-7749) at 2 p.m. on Friday, August 15.

His visits will continue the following week, with two stops on Monday, August 18 at the Van Buren Branch, 140 Van Buren Street (973-733-7750) at 11 a.m. and at the Clinton Branch, 739 Bergen Street (973-733-7754) at 2 p.m. His final stop will be Wednesday, August 20 at the Weequahic Branch, 355 Osborne Terrace (973-733-7752) at 2 p.m.

These programs are free and open to the public.

His love of creating developed early in Kirk's life and was fostered by parents who read picture books to him years before he learned to read for himself. "Before I went to school and learned how to read, my father read stories to me every night," Kirk says on in an interview with his two most famous characters Chuck and T-Bone, dog truck drivers created for his classic *My Truck is Stuck*, with Kevin Lewis.

Kirk claims that he liked the picture books the best and soon started creating his own; from comic books to scary monster cards; painting pictures with tempura paints in an effort to produce realistic-looking art.

His *Dogs Rule!* explores the simple pleasures of a dog's life, from chasing its tail to gnawing on bones and discusses what is so captivating about fire hydrants through poems set to music.

"This work, *Dogs Rule!* gave me a chance to combine my art with music in a single project," Kirk writes.

For more information about Kirk's scheduled visits, please call the local branches.