

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we are pleased to offer special children's programs featuring noted authors from The Common School parent community. All programs take place at the School, and are free and open to Common School families and the public. Contact Pamela Barnes at the Common School, 413-478-6629 or Pamela@commonschool.org for more information and to reserve your spot! **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

Authors in Common for Kids

Author readings and activities at The Common School.

Saturday, March 10 from 5-7pm -- Catherine Newman: *One Mixed-Up Night* sleep-under party.

*One night on their own, with NO grown-ups....
One night of couch jumping and unlimited soda refills....
One night of surprises and secrets waiting to be shared....*

Kids of any age can come hear what happens when two middle school friends devise a plan to spend an overnight in an IKEA furniture store. Wear your pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed toy or blanket. We'll serve pizza and play games after the reading.



Catherine Newman is a writer and blogger of the lifestyle blog *Ben & Birdy*. Her books include *Catastrophic Happiness*, *Waiting for Birdy*, *One Mixed Up Night*, and *Stitch Camp*, which she co-wrote with her friend (and former Common School parent) Nicole Blum. She has also written about kids, parents, teenagers, food, cooking, love, loss, gender, books and babies among other topics, for lots of magazines, newspapers, and online publications, including the *New York Times*, *O the Oprah Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *FamilyFun* (where she is a contributing editor), *Brain, Child*; *Full Grown People*, and *Redbook*. She also edits the James Beard Award winning kids' cooking magazine, *ChopChop*.

Saturday, March 24 from 10am-12 noon -- Emily Neuburger: *Show Me a Story* and *Journal Sparks* storytelling craft activity.

Let your imagination run wild! Kids ages 3 – 12 are invited to go to the unknown land of Story with Emily to create imaginary lands with curious characters. Younger kids will use Story Disks to help build and develop plot, characterization, and setting. Older kids will use words, drawing, collage, and observation based list making to explore many paths into journaling.



Emily Neuburger is an author, artist, and teacher especially interested in how art informs writing and how writing informs art. She is the author of the award-winning book *Show Me a Story* and *Journal Sparks*. Many of her projects for children have been published across the web on popular sites such as Poppytalk, Apartment Therapy, Crafty Crow, Craftzine, and in *FamilyFun* and *Parenting* magazines. Emily authored *FamilyFun* magazine's Everyday Fun blog where she posts creative tips, projects, and inspiration.

Saturday, March 31 from 3-5pm – Holly Black: *The Spiderwick Chronicles* - from book series to movie.

For kids ages 9 and up. Have you ever wondered where writers get their ideas for a book...and how a book becomes a movie? Holly Black will read from her series, *The Spiderwick Chronicles* and talk about making the movie. We'll view clips from the movie, hear about some of the new books Holly is working on, and ponder the question "Are faeries real?"



Holly Black is a prolific author of bestselling contemporary fantasy books for kids and teens. She collaborated with her long-time friend, artist Tony DiTerlizzi, to create the five-book bestselling series *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. *The Spiderwick Chronicles* were adapted into a film by Paramount Pictures. Released in February 2008, Holly served as executive producer of the film, which stars Freddie Highmore (currently seen in the TV show *The Good Doctor*). Holly is a Newbery honor recipient for her book *Doll Bones* (2013) and an Andre Norton award winner for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy. Her newest young adult novel, *The Cruel Prince*, begins a new series, "The Folk of the Air." *The Cruel Prince* debuted on *The New York Times* bestsellers list and has remained on this list for four weeks.