



### Did You Know?

Reading aloud is beneficial for children of all ages, even when children can read for themselves. It strengthens their ability to utilize their imagination, and to further understand language.



Children are able to continue to build their vocabularies, recognize the structures of language, and hear the rhythm and rhymes. *Snowmen at Night* is a great story to try reading aloud!



# MAYORS' BOOK CLUB NEWSLETTER

The Mayors' Book Club is pleased to present our Book of the Month for December:



Sponsored by Healthy Family Partnership, Inc. and Daily Press-Ferguson Holiday Fund

## It's Fun and Easy!

**Tip #1:** The story features a lot of rhyming words. Rhyming words are an excellent way to have children see and hear similar sounds. Rhymes can encourage them to make more connections with the words they encounter every day. How many rhyming pairs can you spot in *Snowmen at Night*?

**Tip #2:** Our book-of-the-month has beautiful illustrations on each page. They bring the story to life with their colors, patterns, and characters' facial expressions. The story provides an excellent opportunity to explore which activities each of the snowmen are doing on the pages. There is also a little bonus hidden within the illustrations! Can you find a cat, a rabbit, a Santa face, and a Tyrannosaurus Rex painted in the scenes?

## Bringing the Story to Life

**Image Search:** The author and illustrator of Snowmen at Night, Caralyn & Mark Buehner, have hidden images in each snowy landscape scene. Help you child look for the following hidden images: *T-Rex, Santa face, cat, rabbit*. Here's a hint - if it's not in the snow look towards the sky or in the trees!

**Snowmen:** Use construction paper to cut out a small, medium, and large circle. Help you child tape or glue the pieces together to form a snowman. Using cotton, felt, crayons, buttons, and string help your child decorate their snowman. Display their work of art in a window or on the refrigerator.

**Snowball Cookies:** Make a batch of sugar cookie dough. After rolling the dough flat, use a cup or round cookie cutter to cut out the "snowballs." Bake and cool the cookies, and let your child frost their own cookie. Then have your child sprinkle coconut on the frosting to make the cookie look like a real snowball!



## Book Picks

### Other Related Books:

#### **Perfect Snow**

by Barbara Reid

#### **The Polar Express**

by Chris Van Allsburg

#### **Sneezy the Snowman**

by Maureen Wright

#### **Snip, Snip...Snow!**

by Nancy Poydar



#### **Snowballs**

by Lois Ehlert

#### **The Snowy Day**

by Ezra Jack Keats

### More books by Caralyn Buehner:

#### **Fanny's Dream**

**I Did It, I'm Sorry**

**Snowmen At Christmas**

### Community Resources

#### **Holly Days Lighted Boat Parade** – December 7, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

More than 20 boats are expected to participate in this free nautical light show taking place on the downtown Hampton waterfront. The lighted boat parade will take place on Friday evening, the same weekend as the Hampton Holly Days Parade. For more information visit: <http://visithampton.com>.

#### **Holiday Frost 2018** - December 7, 2018, 4:00 PM – 8:00 pm

This year's annual holiday celebration at Downing-Gross Cultural Art Center (Newport News) will bring the Charles Dickens Classic "A Christmas Carol" to life. This event will feature games, activities, music, karaoke, crafts, treats, gifts and more! We may also see some very special surprise guests! And the best part is that it's completely free and open to the public! RSVP is appreciated but not required! For more information visit: <http://downinggross.org> or call (757) 247-8950.

#### **Brunch with Santa** – December 15, 2018 10:00 – 11:30 am

Join us for good food, fun and good music. Have your child's picture taken with Santa and share their wish list. Tickets are \$5 per person. All reservations must be pre-paid. Reservation Deadline: Monday, December 13, 2018 at Northampton Community Center (Hampton). For more information visit: <https://hampton.gov> or call (757) 825-4805.

*Special thanks to these community sponsors:* Langley Civic Leaders Association, Langley Chapter of the U.S. Air Force Association, and The Exchange Club of Wythe

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**Visit your school library:** [www.sbo.hampton.k12.va.us/departments/librariymedia/librariymedia.html](http://www.sbo.hampton.k12.va.us/departments/librariymedia/librariymedia.html)

For games and fun reading activities, go to [www.hamptonmayorsbookclub.org](http://www.hamptonmayorsbookclub.org)