

# MONTHLY MEDIA DISPATCH

The newsletter of the Erie 2 BOCES Media Center

## New Classics

Check out these classic works of literature recently added to the multiple copy collection:

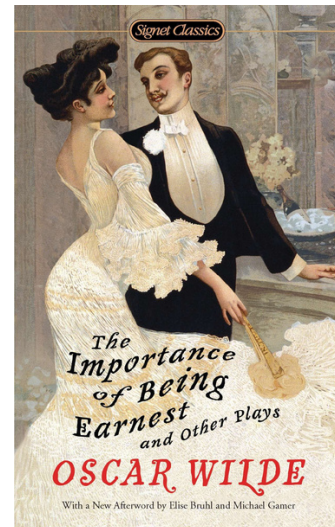
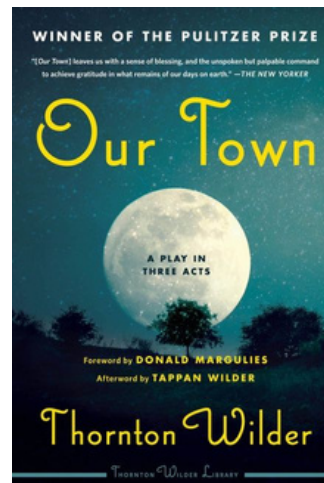
*Our Town: A Play in Three Acts* – by Thornton Wilder

This timeless drama of life in the mythical village of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, has become an American classic with universal appeal. Thornton Wilder's most frequently performed play, *Our Town* appeared on Broadway in 1938 to wide acclaim, and won the Pulitzer Prize.

*Our Town* explores the relationship between two young Grover's Corners neighbors, George Gibbs and Emily Webb, whose childhood friendship blossoms into romance, and then culminates in marriage. When Emily loses her life in childbirth, the circle of life portrayed in each of the three acts of *Our Town*—growing up, adulthood, and death—is fully realized.

*The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays* – by Oscar Wilde

A universal favorite, *The Importance of Being Earnest* displays Oscar Wilde's theatrical genius at its brilliant best. Subtitled "A Trivial Comedy for Serious People", this hilarious attack on Victorian manners and morals turns a pompous world on its head, lets duplicity lead to happiness, and makes riposte the highest form of art. Also included in this special collection are Wilde's first comedy success, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, and his richly sensual melodrama, *Salome*.



# New Fiction for Middle Grades



*Soar* – by Joan Bauer

Starting with his adoption by computer genius Walt, Jeremiah has looked on his life as a series of lucky breaks. When a weak heart keeps him from playing his beloved baseball, Jeremiah appoints himself the team coach. When Walt has to move for another new assignment, Jeremiah sees it as a great chance to explore a new town. But no sooner do they arrive than a doping scandal is revealed and the town feels betrayed and disgraced. Jeremiah takes it as his personal mission to restore the town's morale and help the teams bounce back and remember how to soar.

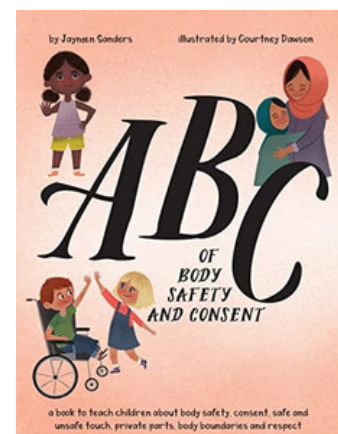
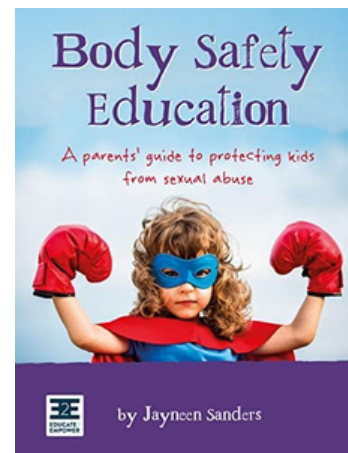
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## Tools for Teaching Consent

In August 2019, New York State became the 37th state to enact Erin's Law. This legislation is named for Erin Merryn, an abuse survivor and activist against child sexual abuse who has advocated for similar laws nationwide for over a decade.

Erin's Law requires public schools to teach child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention classes to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. It is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State schools identify sexual abuse, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, or resource information for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse.

We now have a [new kit](#) containing books and materials to support that work with students and families. It includes a number of titles by renowned child safety advocate and author [Jayneen Sanders](#). Each title comes with a curricular guide that shows which benchmarks are connected to that title by grade level.

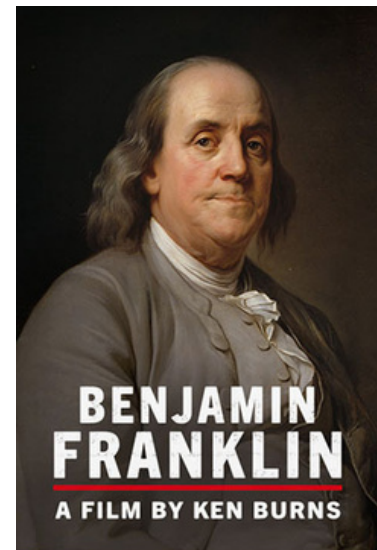


# Documentaries by Ken Burns

One of the most celebrated American documentary filmmakers, Ken Burns has been chronicling American history and culture for decades. His numerous works distributed by PBS cover a range of topics, all with his signature documentary style, incorporating a dynamic use of still photography set to narration taken from primary sources.

The Media Center has a selection of Burns's documentaries available on DVD, including one of his most recent works on the life of Benjamin Franklin.

This **two-part, four-hour documentary** explores the revolutionary life of one of the 18th century's most consequential and compelling personalities, whose work and words unlocked the mystery of electricity and helped create the United States. Franklin's 84 years (1706-1790) spanned an epoch of momentous change in science, technology, literature, politics, and government—fields he himself advanced through a lifelong commitment to societal and self-improvement. Over the course of seven impossibly prolific decades, Franklin ascended professional and social ladders, rising from a printer's apprentice in provincial Boston to the most popular man in Paris, France.



For a list of all Ken Burns documentaries available on DVD, click [here](#). Other titles include:

**The Civil War** – Considered by many to be Burns's masterwork, this kit includes an Educator's Guide and an Educator's Toolkit of digital resources.

**The War** – This seven-part series covers the Second World War from an American perspective.

**Jazz** – Explore the history of jazz from its beginnings in New Orleans through the roaring 20s, the swinging 30s, to the 60s and beyond.

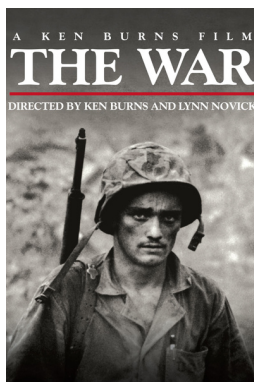
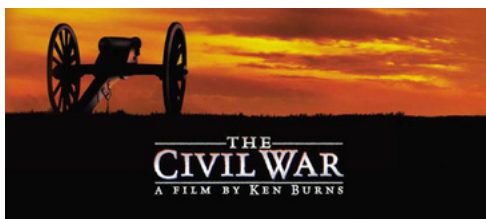


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