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NYC Department of Sanitation and The New York Public Library Launch Virtual Snow Storytime

Sanitation Workers Host Free Virtual Storytimes for Young Children and Families

The Sanitation Foundation, the official nonprofit of the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY), and **The New York Public Library** are teaming up to present weekly virtual “Snow Storytimes” to young children and families beginning Tuesday, December 22.

Sanitation Workers are on the frontlines every day of the year—including throughout this global pandemic—and are gearing up for their most difficult season of all: snow season. These virtual storytimes allow New Yorkers to meet the individuals, reading their favorite snow-themed story, behind DSNY’s critical and complex operations.

A 10 to 15 minute storytime hosted by a Sanitation Worker from the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will be available Tuesdays at 10 AM for free at www.instagram.com/sanitationfoundation/. The series finale will be streamed from PS 88 in Ridgewood, Queens, the school that Acting Commissioner Grayson attended as a child, where he will read Stephen Savage’s *Supertruck*. Author Stephen Savage will join Acting Commissioner Grayson for a Q+A with the Queens school children.

“The safety and wellbeing of New Yorkers in severe weather is a core function for DSNY,” said **Acting Commissioner Edward Grayson**. “The Department has led City-wide snow removal since our formation in 1881 and we have proudly served as your municipal first responders for 139 years. I’m excited to give back to New Yorkers in a different way, and share this story with kids at the elementary school I attended in Ridgewood, Queens.”

Since its launch in 2016, the Sanitation Foundation has leveraged non-traditional strategies to support the Department’s mission to keep New York healthy, safe, and clean. In April 2020, the Sanitation Foundation launched its Emergency COVID-19 fund to support the essential services of Sanitation employees. With the help of generous donors, the Sanitation Foundation

was able to raise more than \$525,000 in donations and contributed goods to keep New York's Strongest safe and well.

"During this global pandemic, and every day, the people behind the New York City Department of Sanitation are essential workers," said **Julie Raskin, Executive Director of the Sanitation Foundation**. "This series of "Snow Storytimes" gives a chance for New Yorkers to meet some of our critical first responders who work around the clock to keep New York City running - through snow storms, and throughout the year."

The series will culminate in a reading of Stephen Savage's, *Supertruck*, which explores how the DSNY's collection fleet becomes a snow fleet. Savage is the recipient of a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book Award, a Sendak Fellowship, an ILA Primary Fiction Award, and a Geisel Honor Award. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter.

"As a New Yorker, it wasn't until recently that I realised DSNY led snow operations: I was looking out of my window in Parks Slope when I saw a collection truck re-emerge from the Brooklyn 2 garage as a snow plow," said Stephen Savage, author of *Supertruck*. "I wanted to tell my fellow New Yorkers the story of these quiet superheroes."

The virtual storytimes are inspired by The New York Public Library's popular storytime programs for kids 0-5, usually held in neighborhood branches. While in-person library programs have been temporarily suspended to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Library has been offering virtual storytimes since mid-March at nypl.org/storytime. In December, as part of a month-long tribute to New York City, the Library is offering "We're Readin' Here," a month of NYC-themed virtual storytimes every weekday at 4 PM. The Sanitation Foundation storytime partnership is also part of the Library's tribute to New York City.

"In these challenging times of social separation, it is critical that we make high-quality programs available for free to connect families around stories, reading, and learning," said the **Library's Merryl and James Tisch Director of Education and chief librarian Brian Bannon**. "We are thrilled to work with the Sanitation Foundation on such a wonderful project to expand our reach, support more New Yorkers, and partner with another important New York institution. The story of DSNY's snow operations is a quintessential NY story, and we're proud to help share it."

About the Sanitation Foundation

The [Sanitation Foundation](#), founded in 2016, is the official nonprofit organization of the New York City Department of Sanitation. Supported by private funding and in-kind donations, the Foundation leverages non-traditional strategies to promote sustainability and advance the essential services of Sanitation employees.

The Sanitation Foundation is supported, in part, by grants from The New York Community Trust, the United Way of New York City, the Closed Loop Foundation and the St. Patrick's Day Foundation NYC. We'd like to extend our deepest appreciation to all donors and friends of the Sanitation Foundation, who make our programs possible.

About The New York Public Library

For 125 years, The New York Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for the people of New York and beyond. With 92 locations—including research and branch libraries—throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, the Library offers free materials, computer access, classes, exhibitions, programming and more to everyone from toddlers to scholars, and has seen record numbers of attendance and circulation in recent years. The New York Public Library receives approximately 16 million visits through its doors annually and millions more around the globe who use its resources at www.nypl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, The New York Public Library relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support the Library at nypl.org/support.