





# Sylvan Dell Publishing

*Science and Math through Literature*

**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Books are Blooming this Spring**

Mt. Pleasant, SC (January 15, 2014) -- Sylvan Dell Publishing is abuzz with excitement as the company celebrates its largest title release in history with nine science and math picture books hitting shelves this February.

This season includes retellings of classic tales with a science twist, nonfiction profiles of animals and those that take care of them, and even some geometry fun. As Sylvan Dell has grown, the company is proud to offer their books in many digital formats as well as Spanish language editions of each new title. Perfect for the elementary classroom, science and language lessons don't stop with the ending of the book; children, parents and teachers are able to access a world of activities and quizzes online in both English and Spanish at [sylvandellpublishing.com](http://sylvandellpublishing.com).

The online and social media launch celebration will begin February 24th with daily giveaways, reading activity ideas, and author interviews. The week of reading culminates with author events scheduled in various cities around the country that begin on March 1st.

### **New titles include:**

#### ***Animal Helpers: Aquariums***

By Jennifer Keats Curtis

Where else could you stay dry while visiting aquatic animals from around the world? Only in an aquarium can you visit and learn about all these different local and exotic animals. Aquarium staff care for and teach about these animals, as well as work to conserve and protect threatened and endangered species. Follow this behind-the-scenes photographic journal as it leads you into the wondrous world of aquariums and the animal helpers who work there.

#### ***A Beaver's Busy Year***

By Mary Holland

Along a stream a dam sticks out of the water. Beavers are busy at work! These aquatic mammals have unique traits that aid them in building the perfect lodge to raise young beavers and keep predators away. Mary Holland's vibrant photographs document the beavers' activities through the course of a year. Do these beavers ever take a break? Follow along as they pop through the winter ice to begin the busy year of eating bark, building dams and gathering food just in time for winter to come again.

#### ***A Cool Summer Tail***

By Carrie A Pearson, illustrated by Christina Wald

When summer heats up, animals find ways to stay cool. Just as animals wonder how humans stay warm in *A Warm Winter Tail*, animals in *A Cool Summer Tail* wonder how humans stay cool in the hot summer heat. Do they dig under the dirt, grow special summer hair, or only come out at night? Many of the same animals are featured in both books,

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offering an important compare and contrast opportunity of how animals adapt to seasonal changes.

### ***Daisylocks***

By Marianne Berkes, illustrated by Cathy Morrison

Daisylocks needs a home that is just right. She asks Wind to help her find the perfect habitat to spread her roots, and he accepts the challenge. Wind blows Daisylocks to the plain, the mountain and the swamp. She objects to each place one by one—too cold, too hard, too wet. Daisylocks is not ready to give up! They try the humid rainforest and then the warm beach; those are not just right either. Will Wind find the perfect climate and soil for Daisylocks to place her roots and grow into a beautiful flower?

### ***First Fire: A Cherokee Folktale***

By Nancy Kelly Allen, illustrated by Sherry Rogers

Why are ravens black? Why do screech owl eyes look red in light? How did we get fire? You'll find the answers to those questions in this retelling of a Cherokee pourquoi folktale. The earth was cold and dark but the animals could see fire coming from the tree on the island. They tried to fly or swim to the island to bring back the fire heat and light. What happened to some of the animals? Which animal brought it back and how?

### ***Kali's Story: An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue***

By Jennifer Keats Curtis, photography by John Gomes

Follow the photographic journey of orphaned polar bear Kali (pronounced Cully) as he is rescued and whisked away to the Inupiat village of Kali (Point Lay in English). Villagers care for him until a plane flies him to the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage. There, he grows and learns skills from zookeepers filling in for his mother. Since young cubs need companionship, animal experts find a friend for Kali, Luna, a female polar bear, at the Buffalo Zoo in New York.

### ***Polar Bears and Penguins: A Compare and Contrast Story***

By Katharine Hall

Polar bears and penguins may like cold weather but they live at opposite ends of the earth. What do these animals have in common and how are they different? You might see them near each other at a zoo but they would never be found in the same habitats in the wild. Compare and contrast these polar animals through stunning photographs.

### ***Sea Slime: It's Eewy, Goopy and Under the Sea***

By Ellen Prager, illus by Shennen Bersani

Snails and sea slugs use Sea Slime. But, did you know that coral and clownfish need slime too? As a marine scientist, Dr. Ellen Prager takes us deep into the sea. She introduces readers to fascinating and bizarre animals that use slime to capture their food, protect themselves from harm, or move from place to place in their underwater environment.

### ***The Shape Family Babies***

By Kristin Haas, illustrated by Shennen Bersani

Mr. and Mrs. Shape are expecting a baby, but they are surprised when three arrive! The first is just like Mother Rhombus, the other just like Father Rectangle, the third baby is a different shape. What should her name be? Go on a geometry naming adventure as all the Shape family relatives weigh in. Will Cousin Triangle, Aunt Hexagon or Grandma Rhombus have the right angle?

All Sylvan Dell titles are available in hardcover, paperback and eBook through Ingram, Baker and Taylor and other major distributors. Enhanced English and Spanish read aloud eBooks are available online or through Fun eReader® on the iTunes store.

For more information about Sylvan Dell Publishing's spring releases or other titles please contact Heather Williams at (843) 971-6722 or by email [heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com](mailto:heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com).

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## Sylvan Dell Publishing Background

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. We have a special interest in bringing science and math to children through quality literature.

When Lee German retired from the U.S. Navy, he and his wife, Donna (Rathmell) German, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Bread Machine Cookbook* series, decided to take some time to travel the country as a family. They packed up their van; armed themselves with family memberships to zoos, aquariums and national parks; and began their adventure. What Lee, Donna and their three daughters returned with was priceless: a lifelong love of learning. This adventure motivated Lee and Donna to take on another challenge, and in November 2004, they opened the doors of Sylvan Dell Publishing. Based on their travel experiences, the Germans knew that true excitement generated a desire to learn. Therefore, they made it their mission to create books that were not only exciting to read but also part of a cross-curricular learning adventure.

The German's were inspired to bring this excitement for science and nature to all children. Each book begins with a wonderful story brought to life by illustration. The story may be fiction, but the scientific facts interwoven throughout the book give a child the learning experience without a textbook feeling. All Sylvan Dell books have been vetted by experts including scientist and educators from organizations such as Sea World, NASA and Columbia University to name a few.

For parents and educators Sylvan Dell includes a For Creative Minds section in each book as well as an online component, where teachers and parents can "become experts" to stimulate further comprehension of the story's theme. This unique structure has made the Sylvan Dell way of reading math and science very popular in homes, libraries and school systems. Sylvan Dell now has 76 titles with the fall release of six new books, and many more in production.

Looking to the future Sylvan Dell is expanding into new product categories with titles printed in Spanish for the first time. The Sylvan Dell eBooks have proven to be a valuable resource for parents and educators, where readers are not only able to read or listen to Sylvan Dell books, but also have access to instant lessons for children. The eBooks will continue to be a focus for Sylvan Dell, as well as expanding the usability in the tablet market.



## Sylvan Dell Publishing Fact Sheet

Sylvan Dell uses a cross-curricular platform for teaching where students are able to relate the subjects they have learned in our fiction books with scientific fact.

The intention is for Sylvan Dell readers to become motivated to learn. When a student is able to read a fun story, then through the For Creative Minds section they have an “aha” moment and have actually learned a new math or science skill without even realizing what has happened. Then educators or parents are able to harvest that knowledge and apply it to the classroom or even on a walk through their own backyard.

### Sylvan Dell’s Signature

All books and activities are aligned to all state science and math standards, North American for Environmental Education standards, and all state standards.

The last three to five pages of each book is dedicated to fun and educational learning activities “For Creative Minds”.

The Sylvan Dell website is packed with online learning and has free supplemental reading comprehension and math quizzes, which are Smartboard compatible.

To supplement each book a cross-curricular guide of Teaching Activities is available to aid in creating lesson plans or home activities to enhance learning.



## Sylvan Dell Publishing Fact Sheet Cont...

Sylvan Dell encourages students to visit related organizations websites to continue learning by providing additional websites for families to visit and learn more about the books' subject from the experts.

### Accolades

Sylvan Dell book have received prestigious medals in publishing such as:

- IRA/CBC Children's Choice List
- IRA Teachers Choice Award
- Learning Magazine Teachers Choice Award
- Moonbeam gold and silver awards
- ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award
- Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Finalist.

Featured reviews in School Library Journal, Learning Magazine, Publishers Weekly, Booklist, Science & Children, Science Books and Films, ForeWord Magazine, The Midwest Book Review, The Horn Book Guide, The Bloomsbury Review, American Library Association and Kirkus Reviews.



# Sylvan Dell Publishing

*So Much more Than a Picture Book!*

## **For More information:**

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