

Dear President Obama:
Nice dog!
Love, Chip



KidsPost

THE WASHINGTON POST



TODAY: Severe afternoon storms

HIGH 86
LOW 71

ILLUSTRATION BY EJ MARKLIN, 13, BETHESDA

stranger ^{than} fiction

2009 SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Each Wednesday during the summer, KidsPost will review a nonfiction book and offer a suggestion for an activity you can do related to the book. Many of the featured books are available at public libraries. We hope you'll agree at the end of the summer that truth really is stranger than fiction!

June 24
"Marley: A Dog Like No Other"
By John Grogan
Ages 8-12

July 1
"Recycle This Book: 100 Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green"
Edited by Dan Gutman
Ages 9-13

July 8
"The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter"
By Bonnie Christensen
Ages 6-9

July 15
"Moon Landing: Apollo 11 40th Anniversary Pop-Up"
By Richard Platt and David Hawcock
Age 6 and older

July 22
"Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food"
By Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson
Ages 9-13

Today
"Dear President Obama: Letters of Hope From Children Across America"
Edited by Bruce Kluger and David Tabatsky
Age 6 and older

Aug. 5
"Body Science: The Head-to-Toe Guide to the Science in You"
By James Cracknell
Age 6 and older

Aug. 12
"Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War"
By Thomas B. Allen
Ages 9-13

Read About It, Then Do It!

Every day, President Obama is given 10 letters from regular people who wrote to the White House. One of them could be yours!

Writing to the president is a great way to learn more about an issue you care about. What would be the first thing you would want to say to Obama? Whatever that topic is, why not do a little research first to find out more about it? That way you can make a more specific recommendation to the president about what you think he should do.

Oh, and by the way, the president's address is 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.

The Washington Post

July 29, 2009

Mail to the Chief: What Kids Tell the President

The historic election of Barack Obama was exciting for many children; in fact, among kids, few presidential elections (or candidates) have created such interest in national politics. The authors of "Dear President Obama" saw that enthusiasm and found a great way to show the feelings of hope and optimism that so many children felt during and after the election.

The layout of this book makes it easy to spend a little or a lot of time reading it. Most of the letters are shown exactly as they were written, on personal stationery and in the child's own handwriting. (And some of it is very good handwriting!)

Some of the kids offer the kind of advice that shows just how much young people today know about what is



going on in the world. The letters raise issues about helping the environment, having enough money for groceries, stopping the wars and many other serious subjects. "We all have to work together to solve these problems," wrote 12-year-old Patrick Smith of Ijamsville, Md.

But then there are letters that just take you by surprise and make you giggle, such as the one from 6-year-old Juliet, who asked the president to free all the lions from the zoos. (Yikes!) Or the 9-year-old boy who wants taxes to be lowered so his parents will have more money to buy him toys. A 5-year-old from New Jersey wrote that the president should get everyone in a circle so they can listen to one another.

Hey, it works in preschool!

— Margaret Webb Pressler