

School District of Cameron  
700 S. First Street  
PO Box 378  
Cameron, WI 54822

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Our school . . . where staff, students excel and parents, community care.*

## Cool drivers



**Who's driving this bus?** Joe Barnes, Mary Talbert, Jim LaMotte, Randy Nelson, Larry Saffert, Mac Paine, Mike Jenkinson, Wayne Wick, Nate Hover, and Dave Ebner are driving these buses. Jim Hessel (not pictured) is the transportation coordinator!

*Thank you, Cameron bus drivers.*

*We appreciate you.*

Thank you to our dedicated team of drivers who transport our children to and from school safely every day. Fun fact - More than 15,000 school bus drivers travel more than 82,000,000 miles annually in the state; For Cameron, 10 drivers travelled over 105,000 miles during the 2021-22 school year. We are so thankful to you for keeping the Cameron children safe!

# Comet Connection



## Cameron School District

715-458-4560  
PO Box 378  
Cameron, WI 54822-0378  
www.cameron.k12.wi.us

Joseph Leschisin  
District Administrator  
715-458-5600  
jleschisin@cameron.k12.wi.us

John Meznarich  
High School Principal  
715-458-5900  
jmeznarich@cameron.k12.wi.us

Hans Schmidt  
Middle School Principal  
715-458-5810  
hschmidt@cameron.k12.wi.us

Corey Martens  
Elem. School Principal  
715-458-5710  
cmartens@cameron.k12.wi.us

## Alaskan adventure

by Sydney Leschisin

Is Mr. Whitt the next Hannah Montana? It seems like he may be living a double life. As many of you may have heard, Mr. Brent Whittenberger is more than a physics and mathematics teacher. The rumors are true! Over the summer of 2021, Mr. Whitt traveled to the Alaskan Aleutian Islands to be featured in a show called "Life on the Edge." He spent 30 days with a few other people building a cabin. This upcoming show follows their journey.

Mr. Whitt is an outdoor enthusiast who spends a lot of time fishing and enjoying nature.

His love of the outdoors is truly inspiring. However, this isn't his first time being on television.

Because of Mr. Whitt's exciting teaching methods, he has been on the news six different times with various classes. He has demonstrated pumpkin drops, speed radar tests, and more. Most of these projects happen in his physics class.

Set your calendars for September of 2023 to check out the show. After some research, I'm led to



**Big catch.** Mr. Whitt enjoys the Alaskan fishing.

believe it might be available on Hulu. If you see Mr. Whitt in the halls or around

the community, be sure to congratulate him; I'm sure he would love to answer any questions you may have. Make sure to check out his pictures of the trip at <https://www.brentwhittenberger.com>.

**"I traveled to Alaska to learn more about the outdoors and beauty of this beautiful state."**

**- Mr. Whitt**



**Playing in the water.** Mr. Whitt captures an image of a bear looking for food.

# Moving on

by Kennedy Ladehoff

The end of the school year is approaching and so is the time for goodbyes. Seniors in high school aren't the only people leaving after the end of the school year. There are also teachers retiring. Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins, Mrs. Bonnie Ricci, Mrs. Kim Sanborn, Mr. Jon Griffith, Mrs. Lisa Hafstad, and Mrs. Marianne Peterson are all retiring after this school year.

Mrs. Hopkins is finishing her 26th year at Cameron High School as the business education teacher. Her favorite thing about teaching was the students and staff she works with. Her plans for retirement are to

spend more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren across the country, go to Florida in the winters, volunteer with her church, find a flexible and remote part-time job, and continue to work with Wisconsin's FBLA State Planning Team. She is most looking forward to being able to sleep in and turn off her 5:45 a.m. alarm, but she's going to miss her colleagues and students.

Mrs. Sanborn is wrapping up her 27th year at Cameron High School as the school counselor. Her favorite thing about her job was college and career planning with students. Her plans for retirement are to go



**Last first day.** Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Sanborn celebrated having their last first day at Cameron High School.

camping, travelling, UTVing, catch up on house projects, and spend more time with friends and family. She is most looking forward to less stress, better sleep, and not having a set schedule, but she's going to miss the daily dose of energy and youthfulness from students.

Mrs. Ricci



**Time with family.** Mrs. Ricci looks forward to spending more time with loved ones.

is ending her fourth year at Cameron High School as a special education aide. Her favorite thing about her job was watching her students grow in maturity and gain greater confidence in their ability to do hard things. Her plans for retirement are to travel more with her husband, spend more time with her kids and grandkids, and complete unfinished projects. She is most looking forward to visiting family and friends who live far away but she's going to miss her coworkers and the positive relationship she built with students.

Mr. Griffith is completing his eighth year as a C.A.V.E. director. His favorite thing about his job was working with students and staff. His plans for retirement are to spend more time with his family, keep coaching middle school football, work at some athletic events, and continue to do behind the wheel driver's education. He is looking forward to slowing down and enjoying the little things while spending more time with family, but he's also going to miss connections with students and coworkers.

Kennedy Ladehoff, Nicole Kargus, and Katie Shilts are the sophomores, also known as the three musketeers. Kennedy and Nicole are both incredibly creative, and they often help other group members with article titles or captions. Katie helps identify students in all the photos because she knows everyone. Just don't ask her how she knows everyone... it's a touchy subject. Kennedy did the whole sophomore section, community service, hockey, and softball pages in the yearbook. Nicole made the title and publications page, freshman section, and golf pages in the yearbook. Katie so generously took on many sports pages including volleyball, cross country, boys basketball, and track. Katie and Nicole collaborated to bring the Ads for Grads pages together as well.

After all these fantastic students, we have one more person left to recognize... Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins! As yearbook advisor and teacher extraordinaire, Mrs. Hopkins is an absolutely integral part of the team. Without exaggeration, Mrs. Hopkins is the glue that holds the whole group together. She is such a helpful person, always putting her students' needs before her own. A teacher truly makes a classroom, and Publications would not be the fun,



**Folding, folding, folding.** Our team sometimes takes two class periods preparing high school newsletters to be mailed out.



**Photography practice.** After choosing the theme of the yearbook, "Small Town, Big Dreams," the team went out to shoot the title page - Cameron's street sign.

chaotic, safe space it is without her. We are all going to miss Mrs. Hopkins dearly as this is her final year teaching, but we celebrate as she enters the next chapter in her life: retirement with the grandbabies on the beach!

The yearbook and newsletters, both district and high school, would not be made without a Publications team. The friendships that have grown are irreplaceable and the memories irreplicable. To join Publications in future years, talk to the guidance counselor about adding it to your schedule. You do have to give up your study hall to join, but

we promise it is worth it!

Finally, we want to give a special thanks to everyone we've interviewed, emailed, pestered, or otherwise. Without you, we wouldn't have stories to write.



**Up to no good.** Katie and Kennedy exchange secrets for the next publication as Nicole is eating a candy cane, not knowing the secrets being shared.



**Centipede savior.** Mrs. Hopkins so valiantly rescues the girls from a rogue centipede.

# The Dream Team

by Caitlin Quarders

Deadlines people, deadlines!

The Publications team decided that we wanted some recognition this year, and what better place to do that than in one of our publications? The Dream Team, as we call ourselves, consists of eight people: Ella Randall, Sydney Leschisin, Caitlin Quarders, Emma Somerville, Kennedy Ladehoff, Nicole Kargus, Katie Shilts, and Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins.

Ella Randall and Sydney Leschisin are the two seniors of the group. Two days a week, Ella and Sydney are gone participating in band and choir, respectively. Despite their busy schedules, these two always get their articles and pages in on time! Find more of Ella's work on the yearbook's divider pages, band, powerlifting, homecoming, and football pages of the yearbook. She also made the flier for the last band concert of the year. Sydney designed Winter Carnival, girls basketball, baseball, choir, FBLA, and forensics in the yearbook. Both Ella and Sydney collaborated on the entire senior section in the back of the yearbook. We will miss them next year!



**Meet the team!** Ms. Emily Bischel, Caitlin Quarders, Sydney Leschisin, Ella Randall, Katie Shilts, Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins, Nicole Kargus, Kennedy Ladehoff, and Emma Somerville worked tirelessly to bring together all the publications from this year. Ms. Emily Bischel was with us for three months as a student teacher.

Caitlin Quarders and Emma Somerville are the junior members. Cate is known as the enforcer of the group. Anytime one of the girls needs something, she is out pacing the halls tracking down people. Emma is just the opposite, as she is the calming presence in the Publications room. Most of her time is spent attempting to keep Cate in

line or spinning around in her chair. Cate designed the staff, foreign exchange, student academic awards, prom, coaches, student council, and National Honor Society pages in the yearbook. Emma designed the junior section, dance, wrestling, FCCLA, FFA, and Spanish club pages in the yearbook. These ladies will be leading the way in next year's class.



**Practicing mindfulness.** Mrs. Hopkins does a great job making sure that the group doesn't get too stressed and that sometimes involves a yoga break!



**Junior ladies.** Cate and Emma joined Publications together after being friends for a few years, and it is now their favorite class!

Mrs. Hafstad is finishing her 34th year in the Cameron School District as a second-grade teacher. She has also taught many grades ranging from first grade up to sixth grade. Her favorite thing about teaching was being with children and staff every day. Her plans for retirement are to spend more time with family and friends. She is looking forward



**Ready to ride.** Mrs. Hafstad likes riding her bike among other hobbies she's going to enjoy in retirement.

to travelling and enjoying her hobbies.

Mrs. Peterson is finishing her 23rd year at Cameron High School as a cook. Her favorite thing about her job was the children she served and seeing their smiles everyday. Her plans for retirement are to do some gardening, traveling, and enjoy life. She is most looking forward to spending time with her husband, but she's going to miss serving the kids at Cameron.



**Enjoying life.** Mrs. Peterson plans to enjoy life through gardening and other hobbies.



**Coaching on.** Mr. Griffith plans to continue to coach middle school football and work at athletic events.

Despite retiring from their careers, most of the staff retiring have plans to keep busy. Each of them is also going to enjoy plenty of time with their family and friends. Each is also going to miss their students and coworkers. These staff members will be missed, but they will be making the most of the newest chapter in their lives.

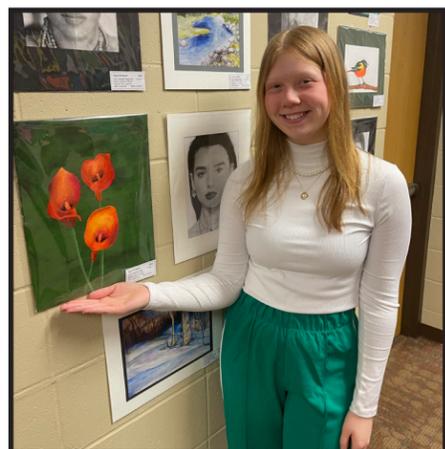
*Congratulations on  
your retirement!*

# Youth Art Month

by Emma Somerville

What is Youth Art Month? The National Art Education Administration (NAEA) defines Youth Art Month as a celebration of the visual arts. The month of March is dedicated to promoting art and art education in the United States.

Thousands of schools across the country partake in the celebration, and our community participates at Northwood Technical College.



Perfectly painted. Madalyn Gilles shows off her flower painting at Northwood Tech.

Northwood hosts the art pieces of local students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Multiple schools in the area including Cameron, Rice Lake, Chetek, Spooner, and Cumberland submitted student work.

Each art teacher from these schools has a limit of 30 art pieces they are allowed to send in to be put on display. The art work submitted by the teachers is displayed through the halls of Northwood Tech. The artists and their friends and family



are able to wander the halls admiring the artwork of local youth. There was work from just about every medium imaginable from pencil to watercolor and ceramic pieces.

Mrs. Angie Leschisin, 7th-12th grade art teacher, says that she loves it when the kids come and are excited to see their art work up in a gallery.

Youth Art Month is a great way to promote student art work and art education, and gets kids excited to create and see their work in a gallery setting. Youth Art Month happens every year, so look out for next March to see amazing student creations.

# Beach fun



Beach day! Cameron Middle School seventh graders really dressed the part for their beach party celebration!

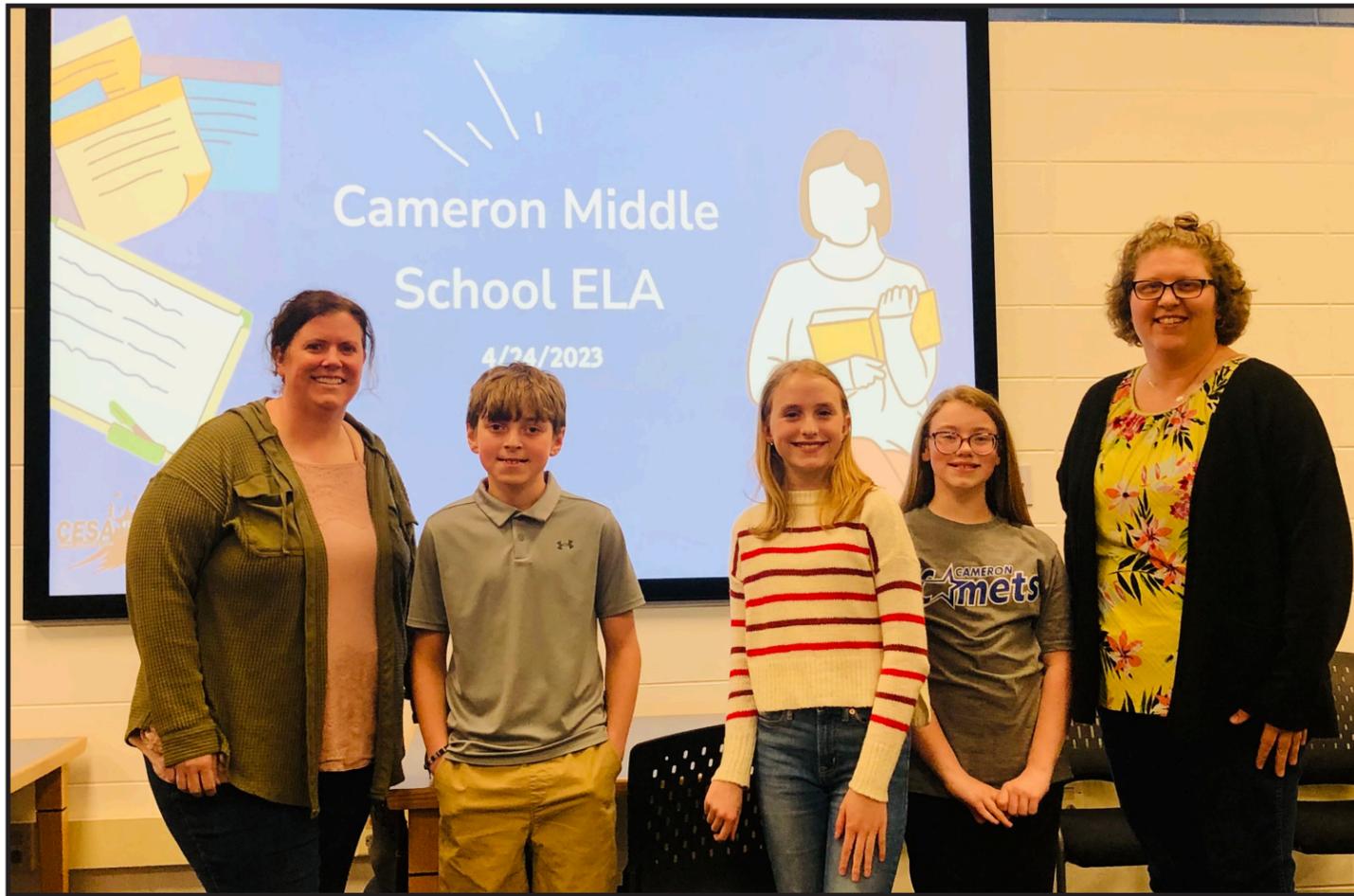
# Leading the way to Green Bay



Leaping with leadership. Cameron Middle School Student Council attended the WASC Leadership State Conference at Lambeau Field over the weekend. Students heard Packer legend LeRoy Butler speak and had several breakout sessions focusing on leadership. Thanks to our community for supporting our fall Glow Run which made this opportunity possible.



# Reader leaders



**Read!** At April's School Board Meeting, Cameron students Aspen Matyska, Veronica Gerber, and Cashtan Randall presented about their MS Reading and ELA experience. Great job to Mrs. Jennifer LaVallie and Mrs. Nikki Holten for being there to present all the work our teachers have done at Cameron Middle School! The results are in and these folks are great!



# Faces in the news

by Katie Shilts

Cameron High School's students have been going above and beyond the class curriculums to achieve amazing things. From sports to spelling to woodworking, our Comets shine.



**Splendid spellers.** Sixth graders Walter Gerstner and Blake Sagen took first and second places in the middle school spelling bee, respectively.

The middle school held a spelling bee, consisting of six contestants in fifth through eighth grade. For two rounds, students were eliminated by words like "peevisish," "Andean," and "door-jamb." In the end, sixth grader Walter Gerstner came out on top, closely followed by Blake Sagen (also in sixth grade). Congratulations Walter, Blake, and everyone else who competed!

Seniors Alyssa Kuffel and Luke Salm were selected as Cameron's Heart of the North Scholar Athletes for this year. They were chosen based on excellence in sports and academics, and recognized during a banquet at Dac Laus Haus in Cumberland.

The 2023 Production Tech class, led by Mr. Jay Cornell, is producing handmade cutting boards available for purchase.

With the design of either a deer, labrador, or the word "home" with the O featuring the shape of Wisconsin, they are only \$20, and can be customized with your last name for no extra cost. Maycee Heggedahl, CEO of the company, explained, "We encourage everyone to purchase one as our hard, quality, and hand-crafted cutting boards are well worth the price." They can be bought by contacting any member of the team, or by contacting the number 715-418-3623. This is a great way to support Cameron's bud-



**Working hard or hardly working.** Two members of the Production Tech team are hard at work sanding their cutting boards.



**Academic athletes.** Seniors Alyssa Kuffel and Luke Salm were honored at the Heart of the North Scholar Athletes banquet.



**Speedy swimmer.** CMS eighth-grader Makenzie Cook competed in three swimming events at the Special Olympics State Championships.

Cameron's six strongest students -- Leo Luckert, Garrik Block, Devon Tasker, Anna Baribeau, Jada Thompson, and Emma Anderson -- traveled down to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to compete against lifters from across the nation. While no one medaled, many had personal records. Just making it to Nationals is a big accomplishment, considering they had to make it to State and then qualify for Nationals at State.



**Super strength.** Freshman Anna Baribeau begins to lift at the National Powerlifting competition in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Two Comet seniors are continuing their athletic careers into college. On May 5, Sydney Leschisin and Grant Paetzold signed their letters of intent to play college sports. Sydney plans to attend Concordia University in Mequon, WI, to run track and cross country. Grant will further his basketball career at UW-Eau Claire. Good luck!



**Next level.** Sydney Leschisin and Grant Paetzold are bringing their skills to the next level by signing to play college sports next year.

ding entrepreneurs. Eighth grader Makenzie Cook recently competed in the Special Olympics State swimming in Oshkosh, participating in three events. She placed 6th in the state for both the 50 yard backstroke and 50 yard freestyle. Additionally, her 4 by 25 yard relay had the second best time in the state. Way to represent Cameron!

# Community leaders

by Caitlin Quarders

Welcome new members!

After a year of volunteering, keeping up with academics, and staying involved in the community, nine new members have been inducted into the Cameron Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Current NHS members and the new inductees came together to attend a ceremony on April 12. The middle school auditorium was filled with family, friends, and school staff to support the Cameron Chapter of NHS as they welcomed in the new members.

The ceremony was led by NHS advisor Mrs. Carla Kuffel, High School Principal Mr. John Mezmarich, and current NHS President Sydney Leschisin. Throughout the ceremony, senior members Cole Lundequam, Zoe Rubenzer, Jordyn Allen, and Alyssa Kuffel took turns lighting the candles -- discussing the symbolism behind them. Following that, all the new members were inducted, where



**Passing the title.** Officers of the current season passed off their symbolic items to the upcoming officers.

they received their official NHS membership certificate and card. The ceremony wrapped up with the officer positions being passed to the new members.

The Cameron Chapter of National Honor Society is pleased to announce the membership of Keara Butterfield, Jami Folz, Madalyn Gilles, Evelyn Martinson, Giuseppe Pica, Caitlin Quarders, Kallei Stovern, Mykala Stovern, and Chloe Wall.



**Final inductee.** Chloe Wall was unable to attend the induction ceremony, so she came in later to join the National Honor Society.

Officer Positions	2022-23	2023-24
President	Sydney Leschisin	Evelyn Martinson
Vice President	Alyssa Kuffel	Keara Butterfield
Secretary	Khalia Evans	Caitlin Quarders
Treasurer	Jazmine Tietz	Chloe Wall
Historian	Sarah Weber	Madalyn Gilles



**Past and present.** Senior members of NHS attended the induction ceremony to support the upcoming junior members. Thanks to the seniors and Mrs. Sally Gores for setting up the auditorium and cafeteria in anticipation of the ceremony.



**Welcome new members!** Kallei Stovern, Keara Butterfield, Caitlin Quarders, Mykala Stovern, Jami Folz, Maddie Gilles, Giuseppe Pica, and Evelyn Martinson are excited to serve the community.

# Ready to read

by Nicole Kargus

While statistics may show a decline in books read over the years, the students in our District have been on a reading grind. Melissa Longmire, the school district's Instructional Media Center Director, has once again provided students a chance to join the state Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA) Battle of the Books and the annual fifth grade Chetek-Weyerhaeuser vs. Cameron battle.

There were a total of 23 fifth grade students, grouped into five teams. Three of these teams – the Bookworms, the Comets, and Half & Half – battled against a Chetek-Weyerhaeuser team. Each team was given a list of 20 books. As a team, they had to read all 20 books and memorize the author and the title. At the battle, they had to discuss a question about a book and verbally give the correct book title and author. Congratulations to all three teams as they all beat the team that they battled against. Cameron won by a total of 16 points and brought the trophy to Cameron for another year.

Students in seventh and eighth grade are also given an opportunity to do Battle of the Books, this time, at a state level. Students form a team



**Meet the team.** Milayna Matson, Sara Bently, Hannah Johnson, and Rayna Schroeder made up "All Booked," the team that represented the seventh and eighth graders at Cameron.



**Taking the trophy.** The fifth grade student teams: the "Bookworms," the "Comets," and "Half & Half," proudly brought back the Battle of the Books trophy after much hard work.

and the best one gets to represent Cameron. The students who participated were Conner Huseh, Carter Carlson, Charles Nasseth, Logan Noggler, Casey Quarders, Stevie St. John, Collin Osmer, Hannah Johnson, Rayna Schroeder, Milayna Matson, Sara Bently, Cyleigh Cherney, Payton Johnson, and Braylin Brown. Of the 14 students and four teams, team "All Booked" worked hard to read the 20 books and represent Cameron. While they didn't place in the state level against the 147 other teams, they tried hard and gave it their best. Mrs. Longmire states, "Though they did not place in the State ranking, they are still winning readers."

This year's high school students were represented by the team "Seaweed Pickles." The students, Sam Bryngelson, Nicole Kargus, Kennedy Ladehoff, Frankie Robel, Kierra Schuebel, and Katie Shilts, worked hard to read the 20 books and represent Cameron for the state battle on February 20. Good job team for placing 10th out of the 64 teams battled against.

Great job to all the students who gave their best work on reading the

books and memorizing details. Keep up the hard work and continue to read many books. If anyone is looking for any book recommendations, just ask the students about their favorite books they read!

**High School Battle of the Books**  
*All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir  
*Artie and The Wolf Moon* by Olivia Stephens

*Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas  
*Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley  
*Gallant* by Victoria Schwab  
*Gideon Green in Black and White* by Katie Henry

*Glory O'Brien's History of the Future: A Novel* by A. S. King

*Home is Not a Country* by Safia Elhillo  
*Hotel Magnifique* by Emily J. Taylor  
*How Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe* by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland

*I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys  
*In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years After the 9/11 Attacks* written and illustrated by Don Brown

*In the Wild Light* by Jeff Zentner  
*The Ivory Key* by Akshaya Raman  
*The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera

*One of Us is Lying* by Karen M. McManus  
*The Ones We're Meant to Find* by Joan He  
*Race Against Time: The Untold Story of Scipio Jones and the Battle to Save Twelve Innocent Men* by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace