



"BOLD & EXPLOSIVE! . . . I LOVE THE CROSSOVER EVERYONE WILL." —NIKKI GIOVANNI



## The Writerly Life Kwame Alexander

Poet, educator, and *New York Times* bestselling author of 21 books, including *Booked* and *The Crossover*  
2015 Newbery Medal recipient for *The Crossover* and Founder, Book-in-a-Day and LEAP for Ghana

**Friday, October 28, 2016, 7:00 PM**  
**Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60203**  
**Presented by Family Action Network (FAN),**

in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School, McGaw YMCA, North Shore Country Day School, and Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)  
 Free and open to the public. Suitable for all ages. PDs available for educators. **Info: [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: KWAME ALEXANDER

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**Friday, October 28, 2016, The Writerly Life, 7:00 PM, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, 60201.** Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and New York Times bestselling author of 21 books, including *The Crossover*, which received the **2015 John Newbery Medal for the Most Distinguished Contribution to American Literature for Children** and the **Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor**. For this event, Mr. Alexander shares a bit of conversation, a dash of storytelling, and a splash of performance from his recent children's books, educational insights, and worldwide experiences.

Mr. Alexander believes that poetry can change the world, and he uses it to inspire and empower young people through his **PAGE TO STAGE Writing and Publishing Program** released by **Scholastic**. A regular speaker at schools and conferences in the U.S., he also travels the world planting seeds of literary love: Singapore, Brazil, Italy, France, Shanghai, and recently, Mr. Alexander led a delegation of 20 writers and activists to Ghana, where they delivered books, built a library, and provided literacy professional development to 300 teachers, as a part of **LEAP for Ghana**, an International literacy program he co-founded.

In a recent piece for the *New York Times*, Mr. Alexander noted the following:

"The mind of an adult begins in the imagination of a child. If we don't give children books that are literary mirrors as well as windows to the whole world of possibility, if these books don't give them the opportunity to see outside themselves, then how can we expect them to grow into adults who connect in meaningful ways to a global community, to people who might look or live differently than they. You cannot. Am I saying that poetry and literature are the answer to Baton Rouge and Dallas and Orlando and Charleston? No. But their capacity to entertain, enlighten and empower — all at the same time — is an answer, and without them, we most certainly obstruct our children's vision."

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School, McGaw YMCA, North Shore Country Day School, and Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)**. FAN is grateful for the support of its 2016-17 annual sponsors **Compass Health Center, Evanston Township High School D202, New Trier High School D203, the Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation, Magnetar Capital, the Mammel Foundation, and Tina & Byron Trott**; our strategic partners **Acclaim Media, Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University, Curt's Café, Erikson Institute, Evanston/Skokie D65, Hackstudio, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, the Master of Science in Education Program at the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, the McGaw YMCA, National Alliance on Mental Illness - Cook County North Suburban, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Community Bank, Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED), Northwestern University, ReDefined Fitness, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Victories, and Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)**; and our in-kind sponsors **Deloitte, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Turing Group**.

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