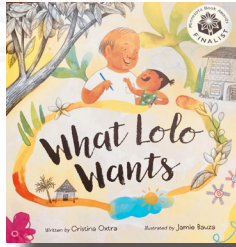


# In the Commons:

## Cristina Oxta

Cristina Oxta writes picture books, chapter books, middle grade, and graphic novels. Her picture book, *What Lolo Wants*, is a 2025 Minnesota Book Awards Finalist and Society of Midland Authors Awards Honoree. She earned a 2025 McKnight Artist & Culture Bearer Fellowship Honorable Mention and received the Mirrors & Windows Fellowship at the Loft Literary Center, where she has served as a teaching artist. Cristina is a former journalist, former educator, Air Force veteran, and public relations professional. She is also a food TV fan, a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, and she enjoys spooky things, theatre, comic cons, and drawing. Red Balloon Books has Cristina's books for sale in the commons.



### Performances by

CSFA Filipino Dance Troupe | Chaska Valley Family Theater | Lily Harvey  
River Valley Dance Academy | Middle School Musical Performers

### Community Tables

Community Education | SouthWest Metro Imagination Library | S.T.A.R. Students  
Carver County Library | Red Balloon Books | Eastern Carver County Schools | Paper Pie Books



# Hooked on Books ...and the Arts, too!



## Cristina Oxta

Saturday, Feb. 21 • 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
Chanhassen High School

### Welcome

All activities are free. Books are available for purchase.  
Flow in and out of rooms as you wish. You most likely won't make it to every activity. Choose your top three or so and then take it from there.  
Say cheese! Photographers will be taking photos and video of participants.  
Activities wrap-up promptly at noon so be sure to leave enough time to participate in the activities you choose.

**Thanks for coming!**



Hooked on Books 2026 was made possible with support from



## East Wing

**Wonder Books** Chanhassen Elementary E102  
What do you Wonder about? Stop by to make and design your very own “Wonder Book.” Take your Wonder Book on a learning adventure!

**Anime Drawing** Young Rembrandts E104  
Artists will learn to draw their own anime style characters ranging from easy to challenging. Complete multiple pieces like customized faces, animals, sugoi action and more ARTastic drawings!

**102 Dad Jokes** Pioneer Ridge Alcove outside of E110  
Dad’s back with jokes so corny even 6 is scared of 7—because “7 eight 9.” Prepare to laugh, groan, and question why you ever let him get past joke number six...or seven.

**Towering Waves** Clover Ridge Elementary E110  
Can you survive the surge? Test your balance, bravery, and quick thinking as you move through our survival-themed obstacle course, inspired by *Tara and the Towering Wave*. Then head to our Wave in a Bottle Science Lab to explore powerful ocean waves and tsunamis.

**Colorful Creations** Family Learning Center E112  
Join *Roots of Reading* DECA students for a book walk and tissue paper craft! We will also be giving books away and talking about the importance of early literacy and reading in early childhood.

**Ocean Friends Ice Rescue** Club Care E114  
Small ocean creatures are frozen in blocks of ice and children will help rescue them! Using warm water droppers and simple tools, they’ll carefully melt and chip away ice to set the animals free.


**Sweet, Tart** Kara Thom E116  
A third grader once said, “A poem is an egg with a horse in it.” What is a poem for you? Put a horse inside an egg and create a poem, too. Celebrate the launch of “Sweet, Tart” a middle-age novel set in Chaska, MN.

**Bottle Flip** Club Care E118  
Experiment with liquid levels and bottle shape to find the perfect combination for bottle flipping.

**Sing, Play, Learn** MacPhail Center for Music E120  
We will sing, move, and create through mini music lessons and instrument exploration. Music sessions will take place on the house with instrument exploration in between. Come play with us!

**Balloon Creations** Balloons by Kevin Alcove outside of E120  
Stop by and visit our talented Balloon Creation Artist. Watch as he twists and transforms colorful balloons into fun animals and imaginative creations right before your eyes.

# Hooked on Books



...and the Arts, too!

## Center Hallway

**Animal Game** Camp Fire Minnesota  
Stop by Camp Fire Minnesota’s table to learn more about animals. We have real bones and furs to see and touch!

**Clay Play** Kathleen Rosales  
Come and play in clay. We will make and paint small shapes and decorate pre-made designs! Artist Kathleen Rosales will demonstrate hand building and decorating techniques.

**Free Books** Chaska Rotary  
Stop by and pick out a book to enjoy. One per child, while supplies last. Sponsored by the Chaska Rotary and Community Education.

**Fishing Pond** Magnifying Abilities  
Don’t miss the whimsical Fishing Pond where every cast brings a splash of surprise!

**Sensory Room** ECCS Special Education  
A calm place to center our thoughts and emotions, as well as gathering resources for sensory spaces around the metro area. Room S107

## West Wing

**Papel Picado** La Academia/Kinder Academy W102  
Stop by to make colorful papel picado while enjoying stories and reading together. This welcoming activity blends art, culture, and literacy.

**Draw with Lolo** Bluff Creek Elementary W104  
Join us for some drawing time! We will have the book “What Lolo Wants” playing in the background while we have art supplies ready with small items for kids to draw from parts of the book.

**Animal Swap** Christopher Bracke Alcove outside W110  
Swing by to color a page from the book and brainstorm new animal creations.

**Dancing Fun** Victoria Elementary W110  
Join us for some “Just Dance” and activities with Tinikling.

**Country Flags** Achievement & Inclusion Specialists W112  
Students learn about different countries by coloring their flags and matching each flag to its correct country name.

**Paws & Pages** North Star Therapy Animals W114 & W116  
Stop by where wagging tails meet wonderful stories! Kids can curl up with a friendly therapy dog (and a bunny) and read their favorite books, or simply enjoy some furry cuddles.

**Book Walk** The World Learner School W118  
Join us for a fun book walk! Guaranteed winner every time!

**Ten Penny Tunes** W120  
Enjoy Irish and American tunes played on accordion, upright bass, and whistles/flutes.

**Photo Op** Alcove outside of W120  
Stop by and capture a magical winter moment at Hooked on Books! Gather your family, strike a frosty pose, and snap a photo.

**Fold, Fly, and Create** IAA STRIVE W124  
Explore the art of paper! Learn beginner origami folds, design and test your own paper airplanes, or create colorful sticker mosaics by matching letters and numbers.

**Build a Bookmark** Carver Elementary W126  
Children will have to opportunity to build a bookmark and pick out a temporary tattoo.

**Drawing Fun Like Lolo** Jonathan Elementary W128  
We will have fun drawing, making cards and book marks - just like in our favorite book *What Lolo Wants*.