

YOUNG AUTHORS PARTICIPATE IN 2nd ANNUAL WRITING FORUM

Fifty students from throughout the Northeastern Catholic District School Board gathered at the Timmins Public Library on Wednesday to take part in the NCDSB 2nd Annual Writing Forum.

The participants of this forum included the winners of the NCDSB Writing Contest in the grade 4 to grade 12 categories, as well as additional randomly selected participants who, while not selected as winners, have demonstrated a passion for writing through their poetry and short story submissions. This annual initiative was launched in order to encourage all students to engage in various forms of writing simply for the fun of it.



Renowned author Frank B. Edwards served as keynote speaker for the event, leading an informative and comical presentation on how to turn an idea into a story. He also led two workshops during which students used their creativity to develop a story line and had the opportunity to share their own writing.

Frank B. Edwards leads a writing workshop for a group of grade 4 to grade 6 students who were selected for the event through their participation in the NCDSB Writing Contest.

Edwards originally started his career in journalism, writing for several well known magazines, including Canadian Geographic, Harrowsmith, and Equinox. He ventured into children's books as a part-time interest, which proved quite successful. His first children's book, *Mortimer Mooner Stops Taking a Bath*, sold over 75,000 copies just in the first year. Along with illustrator John Bianchi, Edwards created the Bungalow Books publishing house, later adding a second imprint called Pokeweed Press. Since then he has ventured into the world of juvenile novels, and most recently has written scripts for a television series featuring the Famous People's Players. He currently has over 1.5 million books in print across North America, including Spanish and French translations of several titles. His company's motto is 'Reading for the fun of it', a practice which we hope to develop in each of our students. During his stay in Northeastern Ontario, Edwards also spent time visiting St. Paul School in Timmins and St. Jerome School in Kirkland Lake, even taking part in a PJ Family Storytelling Party last night.



Students also had the opportunity to attend workshops featuring some of the Board's best writers and staff members, including Mrs. Cheryl Ricco, teacher at Holy Family School in Englehart, Mr. Mike Buhler, Pastoral Care Worker for the Board, and Mr. Brian Beaudry, Custodian at St. Patrick School in Cobalt and leader of their Poetry Club.



The day ended with the awards ceremony for the winners of the NCDSB Writing Contest launched in January. Winners were rewarded with a plaque, a gift certificate and a copy of "Whispers 2006", which features the top poems and shorts stories. All Forum participants were presented with a copy of a Board journal to record their thoughts on the day, or to begin sketching out future story lines or poems.



The Board thanks Brian Nimeroski and Judith Heinzen of the Timmins Public Library for welcoming us in the beautiful facilities. We are blessed to have such a state-of-the-art library within our district. We encourage all of our families to take a reading adventure with their child this summer by visiting the public library in their community. Our thanks are also extended to the Canadian Mental Health Association for allowing us to use their board room as well.

**For more information, please contact:
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