

The 2007 Writing Forum Celebrates Young Authors

The **Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Annual Writing Forum** was held May 1st at Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology for fifty students from the Board. This event is a special opportunity for our students to celebrate their talent and interest in writing.

Canadian Author, Maggie L. Wood, led the students in an interactive workshop providing them with personal writing techniques to further enhance their present skills. "The Princess Pawn," a YA fantasy, became Maggie's first book and was nominated for both the Red Maple and Stellar Book Awards. Her new book "The Princess Mage" came out in the spring of 2006, and she is currently working on "The Princess Heir," the third book in her Mistolear series.

Other district writers also provided the students with a variety of workshops. Arron Pickard, Daytime News Editor for the Daily Press, has been a Journalist for almost eight years. The students had the opportunity during this workshop to take on the role of journalist and interview others.

Elza Pilgrim, published author of the book "The China Doll", guided the students in a workshop about the power of writing using metaphors and similes. Students participated in a variety of hands-on activities to further their understanding of metaphors and similes.

Brian Beaudry, Custodian at **St. Patrick School** in Cobalt and lead for their Poetry Club, has written over 300 poems since the year 2000. Mr. Beaudry inspired the students that poetry is a great method to express one's dreams, feelings and ideas as well as enhance their literary skills.

The awards ceremony for the winners of the 4th Annual Writing Contest, launched in February, ended the day. The winners received plaques, gift certificates and the 2007 edition of Whispers, a collection of their poetry, fiction and non-fiction entries.

This event has been a great success due to the involvement of many and their dedication to the literacy development of our students. The Northeastern Catholic District School Board would like to thank...

... our **Judges:** Rick Brassard, Melanie Bidal-Mainville, Hector Ciccone, Kim Hall, Father John Lemire, Dan Loreto, Sharon Maisonneuve, Brian Marks, Liz Mulholland, Laura Pigeon, Lucie Proulx, Father Hervé Sauvé, Bill Vane and Corinna Wrona.

... our **Speakers:** Maggie L. Woo; Author, Arron Pickard, Daytime News Editor, The Daily Press; Elza Pilgrim, Author; and Brian Beaudry, Poet.

... Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology, Porcupine Campus, for providing the venue.

... our **Sponsors:** Coles Book Store, Grand & Toy, McGraw-Hill, Pembroke Publishing Ltd., Scholar's Choice Toy Store, Scholastic Canada, Staples Business Depot, Tiger Direct, Tree House Press Inc. and CDW Support

[For a complete list of winners please click here...](#)

