



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andrea Beck, Author & Illustration of the "Elliot Moose" Series, Visits Holy Family School

Northeastern Catholic District School Board, January 11th, 2008: It is not every day that a school receives a visit from a published and successful author. Holy Family School, in Englehart, benefited from the knowledge and wisdom of Canadian author, Andrea Beck, who started her career as an author nine years ago.

Growing up in a small community of 3000 people in the province of Quebec, Andrea Beck's favourite pastime was playing pretend games with her favourite stuffed toy monkey. She would spend her days making up stories and using her imagination. Near the end of her time at the Ontario College of Arts and



Design, Ms. Beck started her own toy company and began making stuffed toys. *"When I was a toy maker, preparing large orders of toys, it was like the toys were moving and I felt they would come to life,"* Andrea Beck.

Ms. Beck sold her toy company to raise her children and it was

only by chance that her new career as an author and illustrator of her own book series, Elliot Moose, started. Although rare, her first attempt at becoming a published author was a success. She begins the creation of a new story at her computer and then sends a draft version to her publisher for feedback. She creates a storyboard and plans the progression of her story through the use of illustrations. Once her illustrations are completed, Andrea Beck will take up to 6 days to colour one drawing that is to be printed in her next childrens' book.

Andrea Beck captured the attention of the students of Holy Family School by reading some of her treasured stories and explaining to them how they could become a writer one day. She asked her young audience, "How do you become a good writer? YOU READ!" Some authors in Canada have been published as young as the age of fourteen.



Andrea Beck has received much success with her Elliot series, publishing over 9 titles including Elliot's Emergency, Elliot Bakes a Cake, Elliot's Shipwreck, Elliot's Bath, Elliot Digs for Treasure, Elliot Gets Stuck, Elliot's Noisy Night, Elliot's Great Big Lift-the-Flap Book and Elliot's Christmas Surprise. A children's television show was also created based on her favourite moose character. Ms. Beck is currently busy working on a new children series with a new main character named "Pierre".

Events such as Andrea Beck's visit at Holy Family School continue to support the Northeastern Catholic District School Board's belief that "Literacy underpins all learning".