

press release

contact: Sue Porter
phone: 616.365.2273
email: sueporter@kentisd.org
for immediate release
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Kids Learn Literature Live Together Across the State

Originating from Grandview Elementary School in Grandville, MI, a distance learning event will reach across Michigan to schools on the other side of the state via video conferencing. Featuring local West Michigan authors, this live interactive learning experience for kids called the "ASK Program (Authors, Specialists, Knowledge) will connect Grandview to 6 different schools in the Macomb Intermediate School District in Southeast Michigan on December 3, 2003.

3rd graders at Grandview Elementary and in the 6 schools in Macomb County will simultaneously interview Johnnie Tuitel and Sharon Lamson, the authors of the book "*Searching the Noonday Trail*". The book is unique in that the hero uses a wheelchair, but that doesn't stop him from enjoying adventures and solving mysteries. It teaches disability awareness in a fun and exciting way.

This live event is the culmination of an in depth learning process that begins with the reading of a book and finishes with refined interview questions for the authors. Students keep a journal as they read the book, and then develop written questions for the authors, refine them, and then select the best questions. The students then practice asking the questions before they ask them live in front of the distance learning camera on Wednesday, December 3rd during 4 different sessions.

Participating live at 4 different times during the day with Grandview students will be the following schools:

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

1. 9:30 – 10:30 am Black Elementary School in the Warren Consolidated Schools
 Kaiser Elementary School in the Roseville Community Schools
2. 10:45 – 11:45 am Havel Elementary School in the Utica Community Schools
 Huron Elementary School in Chippewa Valley Schools in Clinton Twp.
3. 12:45- 1:45 PM Pinewood Elementary School in Warren Woods Public Schools
 Huron Elementary School in Chippewa Valley Schools
4. 2:00 – 3:00 PM Graham Elementary School L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
 Huron Elementary School in Chippewa Valley Schools

Coordinated by Sue Porter at the Kent Intermediate School District in return for previous events coordinated in Macomb, the ASK event allows many students to have a learning experience with authors. "When the students know they are going to be asking questions to the authors of a book, it stimulates their reading and writing process. They just light up!" said Susan Porter. "It

is a great thing that technology can provide so many students this personal contact with authors, and with their peers from the other side of the state, without going on expensive field trips.”

“*Searching the Noonday Trail*” is the 4th book in the *Gun Lake Adventure Series* written by Johnnie Tuitel of Grand Rapids, MI, and Sharon Lamson of Norton Shores, MI. This book was selected because it is set in West Michigan and will help showcase our local talent to students in Southeast Michigan. For more information about “The Gun Lake Adventure Series” go to www.tapshoe.com or call Joan Dallis or Johnnie Tuitel at 616 831-0030.

Grandview Elementary School is located at 3701 52nd Street SW, 49418 between Wilson Ave. and Ivanrest Ave. in Grandville, Michigan. The Principal is Jean Carroll-Hamilton 616-254-6120.

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