

A Quarter Century of Storytelling and Art at Young Authors' Conference

Sherwood Park...More than 360 young artists and writers will have the opportunity to explore the influence of prose and illustration during the 25th annual Young Authors' Conference on Saturday, February 22 at F.R. Haythorne Junior High.

This long-standing collaborative event welcomes participants from both Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS') and Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) for a full day of sessions. Students will be grouped into two streams based on grade level (grades 4-6 and 7-9) and attend sessions hosted by local and international authors and illustrators.

"We are thrilled to provide an opportunity for students to have such an interactive experience with authors and illustrators and for them to share their creativity, imagination, time, and expertise with us," explains Ronda Alberts, event organizer for the Young Authors' Conference. "We are also proud to be celebrating 25 years this weekend and the excitement and appreciation for this conference seems to grow each year for students, volunteers and the presenters."

The 2014 Young Authors' Conference will feature a number of returning authors, artists, and celebrities and well as sessions hosted by new presenters. Noted authors returning to the conference include Judy Andrekson, Sigmund Brouwer, Marty Chan, Judith Graves, Jacqueline Guest, Colleen Heffernan, David A. Poulsen, Gail Sidonie Sobat, Gord Steinke and Lyle Weis. Renowned artists include Mike Boldt, Gary Delainey and Gerry Rasmussen.

"Literacy is one of the most important skills for our children, and the power of story is one of the most important engines to drive literacy," states Sigmund Brouwer. "The chance to interact with the students at the conference is something I've always enjoyed, and it never fails to amaze me how much energy and excitement is created by bringing authors and readers together. I can say from experience that this conference is one of the best in Canada, and the organizers deserve full credit for the legacy they have built over the years."

Elk Island Public Schools is one of Alberta's largest school divisions serving approximately 16,600 students in 42 schools. We are proud to be an integral part of our communities including Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville, Strathcona and Lamont Counties, and the western portion of the Country of Minburn

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