



Saints Peter & Paul Parish School

502 7th Street Boonville, Missouri (660) 882-2589

January 29, 2019

To Whom It May Concern;

Saints Peter and Paul students in grades 4-8 were lucky enough to have Mr. Stephen Kozan come to our school to speak about what it takes to be a writer. What a great experience it was! Mr. Kozan shared his story of how he came to be a professional writer. He began writing when he was in elementary school. Mr. Kozan explained that years later, he used a story written in elementary school as the inspiration for his first book. Mr. Kozan challenged students to use their life experiences to tell stories.

A real highlight of Mr. Kozan's visit was seeing the work of the illustrator he accompanying him, Mr. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy took student ideas to create an imaginary animal during the presentation. It was fascinating to all to see the character emerge from the simple ideas given by the audience. We are all looking forward to seeing Mr. McCarthy's finished product which we plan to hang in our library.

The Flash Fiction activity was so much fun! Students who never thought of themselves as writers produced lots of story ideas, enhanced by their fellow students who acted as illustrators. The whole group was excited and engaged as they shared ideas and encouraged one another. It was an experience these students will never forget!

I am so grateful for all the encouragement Mr. Kozan gave to these young writers. Clearly, it is his passion to help students recognize and develop their talent. Students were excited to hear writing and editing tips from an author and publisher. Mr. Kozan answered students' questions and gave good advice about how to develop an interesting story that others would want to read. I am so grateful to Mr. Kozan for all he did to inspire our students about writing.

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