



The Lion's Roar

Millennium Charter Academy Events Worth Roaring About

June 2013

Character Scholarship Community

MCA Teacher Authors Children's Book with Upcoming Series

During her Creative Writing elective, Mrs. Ann Moore, MCA 6th grade English teacher, gave her students an assignment to write a children's book. As part of teaching them the many different facets of such a project, Mrs. Moore wrote a book as a model for the students. Partly because of her students' encouragement, and partly because she is concerned about ensuring students maintain common virtues like courtesy and compassion, she decided to get her book published. Now, several months later, she has beautifully accomplished her project. Her book is entitled *Mr. Jay Learns to Share*, a story about a blue jay and a grackle, birds that are generally enemies by nature, and how the blue jay learns compassion in a time of need. Mrs. Moore states that, in addition to teaching virtues, one of the ways this book is different from other children's books is that it uses more rigorous vocabulary. "Kids can learn anything! Let's teach good vocabulary from the beginning," states Mrs. Moore. The book also introduces the children to great science lessons, and has an end page with information about blue jays and grackles so students can get real world connections to her story.

Mrs. Moore plans to write more books in this same series, which she calls *A Bird's Eye View to Virtues*. She has started her second book which will focus on gratitude. Her feathered friend models for this book will be a pair of sand hill cranes, named Maude and Marvin, that frequent her mother's house in Florida. Mrs. Moore's mother, Sophie Norman, is the illustrator of *Mr. Jay Learns to Share*, and she will also be the illustrator for the remaining books in the series. Mrs. Norman is a gifted artist, and the pictures in the book beautifully detail the story. Mrs. Moore says writing this book has made her a better teacher. As she sees her own writing process take place, it gives her more patience and a better understanding for her student writers. *Mr. Jay Learns to Share* is available at Pages Books and Coffee in downtown Mt. Airy, or through amazon.com, xlibris.com, or barnesandnoble.com.



Mrs. Ann Moore shows off her book at the MCA Reading Glen. You may also learn more by reading The Mount Airy News article http://www.mtairynews.com/view/full_story/22900636/article-MCA-teacher-authors-book-for-children?instance=search_results

Keeping Things Going

At first glance, it might seem that MCA is deserted during the summer months, but several people work all year long. Two of the people you'll find at MCA every day are Shanda Lawson, Administrative Assistant and Business Secretary, and Tonya Price, Receptionist and Director of the Lion's Watch, the before and after school care program at MCA. These ladies stay very busy during the summer. Mrs. Lawson pays bills, schedules assessments for new incoming

students, finalizes MCA accounting for the year-end and opens the books on the coming year, places back-to-school orders for teachers, and takes care of payroll and insurance needs for newly hired employees. Mrs. Lawson has been at MCA for six years. Mrs. Price answers the phone, which never stops ringing even in the summer, greets visitors, schedules building maintenance work, handles all incoming and outgoing mail, keeps the MCA bus list updated, sets up student folders for the coming year, and readies the Lion's Watch Program for another year. Mrs. Price has been at MCA for two years. Please be sure to say a huge thank you to both ladies for keeping the school running so smoothly all year long.



Shanda Lawson, MCA Administrative Assistant and Business Secretary



Tonya Price, MCA Receptionist and Lion's Watch Director

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