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Pleasant Ridge Celebrates Literature

By [Glenview_School_District_34](#)

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Author Kit Pearson with Pleasant Ridge students



The week of May 24 was an exciting one at Pleasant Ridge School as a variety of programs were conducted to help nurture in the students a passion for reading. Popular author Dan Gutman (*My Weird School*, *Baseball Card Adventure* series) spoke to the third through fifth grade students about his new book, *The Talent Show*, and read his picture book *Casey Back at Bat* to visiting kindergarteners.

The importance of books and reading in our lives was celebrated through the annual Pleasant Ridge Literature Alive! family event. Students prepared for the Literature Alive! visit of award-winning Canadian author Kit Pearson by reading her historical fiction and fantasy books, researching World War II England and Canada (the time period and setting of her *Guests of War* series), and hearing from World War II English evacuee Fergus Furlong. The students had the chance to prepare the author for her first visit to Chicago by blogging with her. In advance of her visit, the students viewed the author's website, created thematic bulletin boards, and much more. The culmination was Kit Pearson's visit with all grades and her appearance at the PTA's Anderson's Bookfair.

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June 10, 2010
Thomas Thorfinnson Program at Rotary Club of Glenview Sunrise
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June 2010

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Reknowned poet Bill Buczinsky was also present at the Literature Alive! event. He again hosted a Poetry Café. In preparation for their role in the Poetry Cafe, students played the Library Poetry Scavenger Hunt game, created original poems and selected favorites by poets such as Shel Silverstein to recite at the Café.

As part of the week of celebrating literature, students donated gently used and new books for less fortunate schools and bought books at the PTA sponsored Anderson's Bookfair. The third graders performed plays based on Monarch Children's Choice Award books. The celebration was filled with excitement as the students and their families participated in these many fun activities.

Keywords

Pleasant Ridge, literature, authors, Gutman, Pearson, Furlong, Buczinsky

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