

Jan. 26, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to write this letter of reference at the request of David Rastoka, President of Heartfelt Stories. David and his team visited my school, Oak Creek Elementary, last May for their very first author visit.

David and his team, Denise Bloom and Kimo Tenorio, presented to kindergarten, first, and second grade students. As an introduction, the author of the group, Denise, shared their two books. More Than a Spoonful and Toby Gets the Brush Off are cleverly written in rhyme, and their colorful illustrations are appealing to young children. Although previously exposed to the books, classes continued to be captivated with the rhyme and illustrations in each.

After Denise read the books, David discussed the books' themes and lessons through a series of questions. Lastly, students in each presentation assisted in the creation of a story revealing the brainstorming, writing, and illustrating process. This gave the children insight into how the group works together. Kimo, as illustrator, was a special treat for the students. Most of them had never been exposed to such a talented artist drawing so quickly in front of them! The students were also able to realize that they (as students) go through the same process when writing and perhaps illustrating.

It was a pleasure to work with the Heartfelt Stories group. They are upbeat, entertaining, and fun! They did a wonderful job at engaging the students. Creative ideas, such as Denise dressing as Toby the Molar, also generated interest in the books. The team was also giving with their time as they individually autographed the students' books. In addition, students who helped with the creation of stories were allowed to keep the story and illustration!

In conclusion, I would highly recommend an author visit from Heartfelt Stories. Their performance at Oak Creek serves as a strong indicator that future school visits will be successful.

Sincerely,

Michelle Sattler

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