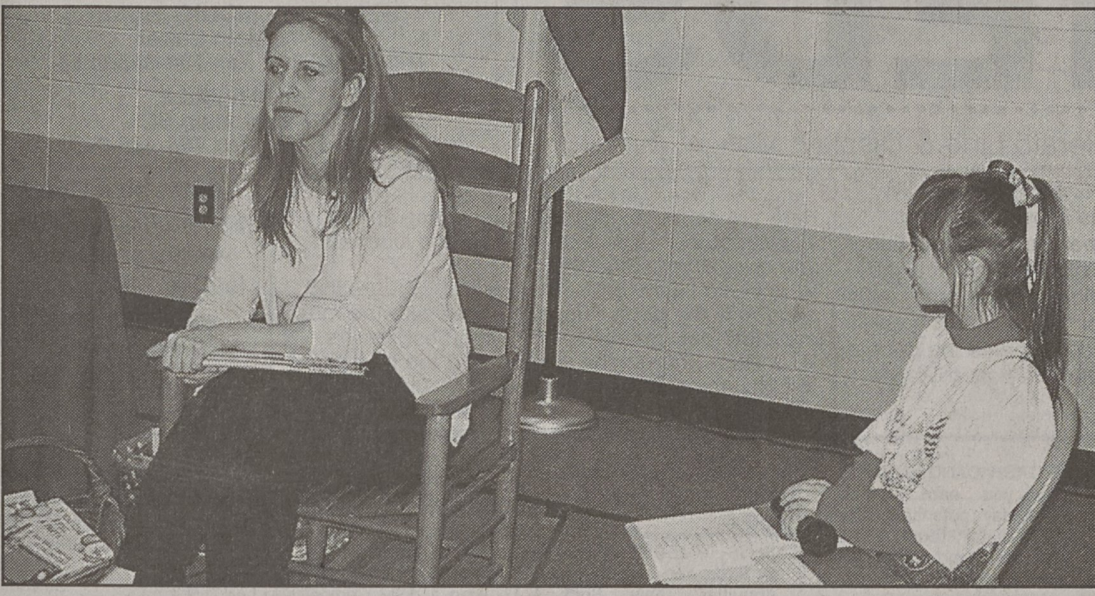


EDUCATION



ELIZABETH STEWART / HERALD  
Erica Carpenter, right, listens as author Laura Numeroff speaks to students at West School.

West pig party honors national reading winner Erica Carpenter

ELIZABETH STEWART  
Herald Correspondent

Erica Carpenter, 9, was all smiles last Wednesday and so were the other 329 cheering and excited West School students who shared her national reading award which brought noted children's author Laura



ERICA

Numeroff from Los Angeles to read three of her popular books to the whole school. Carpenter claimed the award by reading 12 books a day and a total of 1,152 between August and November in the national "If You Give A Kid A Book" Reading Challenge, sponsored by HarperCollins Children's Books and Chick-fil-A.

She topped 2,400 other entries. And the celebration didn't end in the gymnasium where the packed crowd of students and guests listened attentively as Carpenter interviewed - and they enthusiastically applauded - an author who has sold 11 million copies. Kids know her stories by heart. Carpenter's prize also included a party for the 23 members of her third grade class taught by Mrs. Paula McDaniel and hosted by Numeroff. At the party, Chick-fil-A provided chicken nuggets and brownies and a pig character entertained. The author, who rarely makes such stops, enjoyed the party as much as the children. Numeroff wrote her first story in the third grade and had her

first book published at 21. Publishers turned down "If You Give A Mouse a Cookie" nine times. After that experience, Numeroff adopted the motto, "Don't give up."

The idea for "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie," came to the author on a long, boring car trip. She said she had an image in her head of a little mouse nibbling on a gigantic chocolate chip cookie. She pictured him getting crumbs in his whiskers and then wanting some milk, so the whole story unraveled right until the end when he was thirsty again and wanted another glass of milk. The book came out in 1985 and sold 2.5 million copies. Five spin-offs included last year's "If You Give A Pig A Party."

Carpenter said she knew something big was going to happen when she saw a black limo pull up in front of the school Wednesday. Numeroff had just finished a 22-day city tour. "I jumped out of my seat," said Erica, a cheerleader who has played Upward basketball this season and who says she can outrun any boy in West School. Encouragement to read comes from her mother, Linda Carpenter, who is president of the Friends of Mauney Memorial Library, her father, Scott Carpenter, and her teacher. Other family members at the presentation were Erica's grandparents, Jim and Lib Carpenter. Special guests were members of the Cleveland County Board of Education, Supt. Dr. Gene Moore, Deputy Supt. Dr. Ted Knapke, Director of Elementary Education Donna Senter, Mayor Rick Murphrey and Mauney Memorial Librarian Sharon Stack.

Carpenter's favorite stories

include fairy tales and Numeroff's "If You" books.

Born in Brooklyn in 1953, Numeroff grew up about five blocks from a branch library and checked out six books at every visit. She liked to read anything by Marguerite Henry or Beverly Cleary and her favorites were "Stuart Little" by E. B. White and "Eloise" by Kay Thompson and she said the publishers of those titles are also the same publishers of her books. HarperCollins, who published "Stuart Little" did "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie" and "If You Give a Mouse a Muffin" and "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" and the "Chicken Sisters." Simon & Schuster published "Eloise" and "What 'Mommies Do Best" and "Two for Stew," and "Why A Disguise," plus "Sometimes I wonder if Poodles Like Noodles," "Dogs Don't Wear Sneakers" and "Chimps Don't wear Glasses." Random House put her book "Monster Munchies" in the Dr. Seuss Beginner Reader Series along with her childhood favorite Guess book, "The Cat In The Hat."

Numeroff said as a child she also loved to draw and make up stories. Her favorite possessions were her microscope, a box of 64 crayons and her library card. She was a Brownie all the way through Cadet Girl Scouts and enjoyed selling Girl Scout cookies.

At 15 she changed her goal of becoming a writer to becoming a fashion designer, she told the students. But when the time came to go to college she hated everything about that career choice because she couldn't sew and started classes in photography, animation and radio broadcasting.

Fourth grade students at West write books for kindergartners

ELIZABETH STEWART  
Herald Correspondent

Fourth graders at West School didn't need "the luck of the Irish" Friday to build a friendship with 22 kindergarten students they featured as the main character in individually illustrated books they wrote and presented in a fun St. Patrick's Day program.

The plot of all the stories involved various challenges that the main character, the kindergarten student, faced in a fairy tale setting but the hero, of course, was a leprechan who saved the day.

Anna Smith was the author of "Princess Sophia's Big Problem" and featured Sophia Kellstrom as the star. Princess Sophia was locked in a pretty pink castle and a dragon was guarding the room. It was on St. Patrick's Day and her dilemma was getting out of the prison. A leprechan came to the rescue. The construction paper books were all beautifully colored and imaginative, put together by each fourth grader and the author's picture and information about him or her on the back page. On the front page was the author's name and the publisher, Williams Wildcats Inc. Smith also wrote a book, "The King and His Problem," featuring kindergarten student Collin

Myers as King of the United States. The king was facing a battle between the North and South. Of course, the leprechan came to the rescue.

Each of the 17 fourth graders read their books to each of the kindergarten students. Some of the fourth graders were author of more than one book. After the kindergarten students returned to their classroom, fourth graders wrote about their impressions of their new friends.

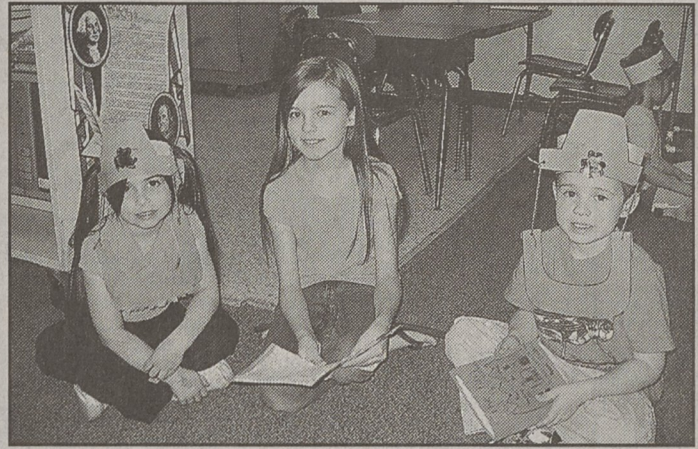
"They thought we were heroes," said Mason Fleisher.

"I wanted to do something for them after they completed the state writing test and we came up with this idea, it builds relationships," Williams said of the event.

Fourth graders participating in the writing project were Chynna

Batts, Mason Fleisher, Shelby St. Just, Mike Vongpouthone, Betzaira Saenz, Hanna Johnson, Walt Grayson, Xaveyon Bradford, Kalee Boone, Samuel Setzer, Keymar Hemphill, Sarah Blalock, Radhika Patel, Alayna Pearson, Jason Sanders, Anna Smith and Emily Harris.

Kindergartners taking part in the project were Deshonta Banner, Billy Stilwell, Hunter Bell, Waylon Bell, Xaveyon Bradford, Kalee Brooks, Lauren Campbell, Collin Franks, Hadonn Pruet, Dannah Robinson, Samuel Lail, John Thomas Cash, KC Champion, Brennin Fleisher, Thomas Harrison, Katlin Smith, Hallie Hunt, Brayden Johnson, Sophia Kellstrom, Collin Myers, Jonathan Rikard and Alisha Odums.



ELIZABETH STEWART / HERALD  
Anna Smith reads to Sophia Kellstrom and Collin Myers at West School.

DAVID R. MCDANIEL, OD, PA

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE REOPENING OF HIS KINGS MOUNTAIN OPTOMETRIC PRACTICE AT 510 WEST KING STREET KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA (704) 739-1394

HOURS: MON.-THURS. 9:00-5:00 FRI. 9:00-12:00 NEW AND ESTABLISHED PATIENTS WELCOME!

Mountaineer kickers win two, lose to Charlotte Catholic 5-1

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team defeated Highland and East Lincoln and lost to Charlotte Catholic last week.

Tuesday, Katie Cooke scored a hat trick in a 6-0 win over Highland. Vanessa Sidavong assisted the first goal. Hannah McGill scored off an assist from Avery Dahl and Susie Potter scored off an assist from Tayler Deaton to give KM a 3-0 halftime lead.

Cooke scored off two assists from Potter in the second half, and Doty scored off a cross from Bennett Suber for the final point.

Cooke got the scoring underway early - again off an assist from Potter - Wednesday in the Mounties' 3-0 win over East Lincoln.

Ashley Witherspoon assisted Bennett Suber for a 2-0 lead in the second half. Hannah McGill scored the final goal off a shot from Alex Edwards.

Charlotte Catholic's #2 ranked Cougars built a 3-0 halftime lead Friday night and defeated the Mounties 5-1.

Bennett Suber fed several good crosses but the Mounties could only put one away.

Kings Mountain's game with Asheville tonight has been rescheduled for April 25. The Mounties host Shelby, the state's second-ranked 2A team, next Wednesday.

Carmike Cinemas  
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE AT www.carmike.com  
Carmike 10 482-5623 CLEVELAND HALL  
STADIUM SEATING IN ALL AUDITORIUMS  
ALL SHOWTIMES INCLUDE PRE-FEATURE CONTENT

THE HILLS HAVE EYES  
Rated R - 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

THE SHAGGY DOG  
Rated PG - 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

DATE MOVIE  
Rated PG-13 - 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35

EIGHT BELOW  
Rated PG - 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

FAILURE TO LAUNCH  
Rated PG-13 - 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40

16 BLOCKS  
Rated PG-13 - 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

AQUAMARINE  
Rated PG - 1:45, 4:15, 7:00

SHES THE MAN  
Rated PG-13 - 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

V FOR VENDETTA  
Rated R - 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION  
Rated PG-13 - 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

ULTRAVIOLET  
Rated PG-13 - 9:25

Daily Specials at The Diner

Breakfast  
Pancakes, Bacon & Coffee \$3.99

Lunch  
Small Pork Plate, Fries, Slaw & Hush Puppies \$3.99

Dinner  
All You Can Eat Chicken or Ribs, Fries, Slaw & Hush Puppies \$6.99

The Diner  
I-85 and Dixon Rd.  
704-730-1882

CROSSWALK  
THE TRAIL OF AMAZING GRACE

A man has come to tell us about the first Easter. He should know... He was there.

Come meet Joseph of Arimathea. He will be your guide as the busy crosswalks of a North Carolina city explode with the pageantry of Easter in a way that you have never before experienced!

Plan now to bring your family or church group to the sixth season of what has become the southeast's most unusual passion play, "CrossWalk - The Trail to Amazing Grace". Five blocks of drama that puts you on stage!

MARCH 31 & APRIL 1  
6:00 - 7:10 - 8:10 PM

Celebrating the pivotal event of the universe on the streets of Kings Mountain, NC

www.kmcrosswalk.com 704.738.3838

Featuring a musical welcome by CROSS REFERENCE

A PRESENTATION OF REGAL VENTURES CREATIVE MINISTRIES AND THE PEOPLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

City Of KINGS MOUNTAIN  
Tourism Development Authority

The best way to see CrossWalk is From the Inside Out! Become a part of the CrossWalk Theatrical Music Ensemble With National Award Winning Conductor Gene Bumgardner

Rehearsal:  
Monday, March 27, 7:00 PM  
First Baptist Church / KM

Also, additional stage hands and families for "Townsppeople" welcome! Check with Regal Ventures (704.739.3838) for details!