



Enterprise Middle School

"Home of the Wildcats"

5200 Paradise Drive
West Richland, WA 99353

Phone: 509-967-6200
Fax: 509-967-5685
HTTP://www.EMSwildcats.com

The Wildcat Way: We Respect Ourselves, Each Other, and Ongoing Learning

September 30, 2011

Dear Patrons,

Cavalcade of Authors is collaborating with Columbia Basin College (CBC), the ESD 123, and Mid-Columbia Lit Fest to present a literary/writing conference for middle school and high school students in Benton and Franklin counties. The program is comprised of two components: 1) students reading novels from 12 featured authors and 2) a writer's conference led by these featured authors to be held at Columbia Basin College, March 9, 2012. We are excited to welcome the following authors this year: Frank Beddor, Janet Lee Carey, Holly Cupala, Alex Flinn, Pete Hautman, Lisa McMann, Blake Nelson, Ridley Pearson, Alexander Gordon Smith, Vivian Vande Velde, Robin Wasserman, and Jim Whiting. These authors have been extremely popular with our students (and other teens) and their books are flying off our shelves

Approaching its fourth year, the Cavalcade of Authors has expanded from 70 students and one middle school in Richland in 2009 with a \$4,000 budget to 500 students from 12 secondary schools in the Tri-Cities and Umatilla school districts in 2011 on a \$15,000 budget. For 2012, we anticipate six additional schools to sign up by the end of August and nearly 800 students in attendance. We are looking to raise nearly \$30,000 this year to help pay for our 12 authors and to seed for the following year. To meet the demand of the increased numbers of schools and students that want to participate this year while working to minimize the amount of money schools must pay, we are requesting grant funds of up to \$5,000.

Adolescent literacy is a significant need in our community and this program promotes reading and writing skills in an engaging and unique way. The response from students, teachers as well as the authors has been positive and encouraging. It is our hope that the program will grow and expand to become a truly regional event that draws all students from throughout the Southeastern region.

Please join us in promoting literacy in our community. We want to pass on the love for books in our world that is slowly beginning to devalue the wonder of reading: We love feeling the heft of the book in our hand, turning the pages, escaping for a moment into an imaginary world, the satisfaction in completing a literary work, and the lifelong treasure trove of books we line up upon our shelves. We want this for the future generation. The Cavalcade of Authors is the very lifetime experience that will inspire the love of the printed word deep in the hearts of our children giving us hope for the generations to follow. Please join us in keeping this love alive!

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lane
Enterprise Middle School Librarian
Cavalcade of Authors Founder and Director
michelle.lane@rsd.edu
Phone: 509-967-6212

Fax: 509-967-5685

Leslie Olds
Cavalcade of Authors Coordinator
lesnerik@yahoo.com
509-628-2677