



Children's Author
&
Illustrator Program

Visiting Author

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator

For many years, the SW/WC Service Cooperative has organized author and illustrator visits in area elementary schools. This year, Park Side, West Side Elementary, and Holy Redeemer School had the pleasure of meeting Children's author, Blake Hoena, from St. Paul, MN.

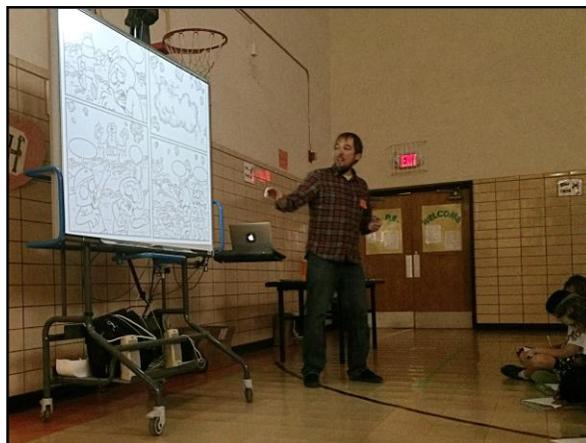
Blake visited Marshall Public Schools on Thursday, April 30th and Holy Redeemer on May 1st. He has been writing since he was 6 years old and has currently written 100 children's books—everything from ABC books about dogs to a series of graphic novels about two alien brothers bent on conquering our big blue home to chapter books about Batman and Superman.



Media Specialist at Marshall Public Schools, Mrs. Nancy Thooft, said "Mr. Hoena entertained students with details about his many books, and explained the process for creating and publishing a book. Students enjoyed drawing Mr. Hoena's well-known fictional alien characters, Eek and Ack. Some even had the opportunity to create their own. Students were able to purchase a wide array of Mr. Hoena's books, and many had them autographed. Mr. Hoena's engaging and inspiring presentation style made for a fun and enjoyable day for both students and teachers."

Mrs. Joyce Evert, Librarian from Holy Redeemer School, said "the students had a wonderful time with Blake. One of the students asked Blake if he was famous and he said, no but it would be my life dream if the characters, Eek and Ack, would become part of a movie or TV show!"

Student Activities Coordinator, Andrea Anderson commented, "I have worked with Blake in the past and knew he would do great as a visiting author. He is so down to earth and does so well with students. I was able to see his presentation at Park Side on Thursday and was very pleased with choosing him to be a part of this program. He knows how to connect with children at their level and all the students were completely engaged in his presentation and the drawing exercise. It was very cute to see!"



April 30, 2015

