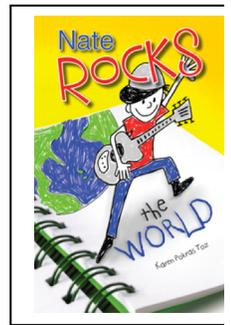


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Award-Winning Children's Author Visits Philadelphia School, Shares Message That It's Still Cool to Read & Dream

Philadelphia -- Reading Rocks! That's the message Karen Pokras Toz, author of ***Nate Rocks the World***, relayed to children on April 11, 2012, during her visit to William Longstreth School in Philadelphia.

The Montgomery County, PA-based Pokras Toz's visit was part of the National Library Week celebration sponsored by the Western Philadelphia Alliance for Children (WePAC.)

Nate Rocks the World and ***Nate Rocks the Boat*** (to be released May 1), teaches children that everyone has the power to accomplish their goals and live out their dreams. The Nate Rocks series stars 10-year-old Nathan Rockledge, who transforms himself into Nate Rocks – hero and superstar -- using just his sketchpad and imagination, creating one exciting adventure after another.

At William Longstreth school, Pokras Toz spent the morning with second and fourth graders, talking about the importance of reading, writing, and using your imagination. The children had an opportunity to create their own adventures -- written and through drawings. In addition, Toz donated copies of her books to the school and other WePAC-backed school libraries.

"The children were amazing. Their adventures included a rocket trip to the sun and taking a zip-line through the jungle, to getting stuck on the Eiffel Tower!" Ms. Toz stated. "I was so impressed by their creativity and enthusiasm. I'm grateful to WePAC for the opportunity to visit these wonderful children. It was my pleasure to meet them and donate a collection of books to their library. I look forward to a return visit soon."

WePAC works to renovate and keep public school libraries, hit hard by funding decreases, open in West and Southwest Philadelphia, through it's "Open Books, Open Minds" program. In addition, the Philadelphia non-profit also collects and donates books and trains volunteer librarians to staff the libraries. According to their mission statement, "WePAC encourages curiosity and fosters a life-long love of reading. Our overarching goal is to bring books, reading, and libraries to low-income schoolchildren who have lost their library or who never had one." To date, they have opened 12 libraries, including the one at the William Longstreth School.

For more information on WePAC, visit: www.wepac.org. To read Toz's blog about this event, and see pictures: <http://bit.ly/HNsocu>. For more information on Toz and her books *Nate Rocks the World* and *Nate Rocks the Boat*, visit www.karentoz.com. To receive media copies, contact Grand Daisy Press at: info@granddaisypress.com.

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