



FRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Indian Prairie School District 204

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Laurie Hillman, Principal

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Dear Fry School Families:

The 2018 Young Authors' Program at Fry School is Officially Underway!

Fry School's Young Authors' program is part of the Illinois Young Authors' program, which is now in its 44th year and culminates with a statewide conference on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Our school will choose one representative to send, on behalf of Fry Elementary School, to the Young Authors' conference at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. At the Young Authors' conference, students will get to meet published authors from Illinois to discuss the writing process, and other student Young Authors from around the state.

This program is intended to generate appreciation and recognition of children's writing. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors' Program by writing and submitting an original story, essay, or collection of poems. It is an optional program, however, and has no bearing on grades in class.

Students are encouraged to use their free time during the next few weeks to work on their books. Judging of all stories will take place in early March by a panel of teachers. One "Young Author" will be selected from Fry Elementary School, as well as one runner-up. The runner-up is selected just in case the "Young Author" that's chosen is unable to attend the conference. Fry's Young Author and the runner-up will be announced mid-March. All students that submit a qualifying story will receive a blue ribbon to recognize their participation. Fry's selected Young Author will receive special gift on behalf of Indian Prairie School District 204.

All the details you need to participate in the Young Authors' program are listed on the following page. Please adhere to the guidelines and rules as they are written. Manuscripts that do not follow the established guidelines are subject to disqualification from the judging process. **If you decide to participate, all manuscripts are due to Fry Elementary School by Thursday, March 1st.**

Read on the next page, for information, should your child choose to give it a try! We're proud of the creative minds we have at Fry Elementary School and are looking forward to reading all of the great writing!

Thank you always for encouraging reading and writing,

Michelle Loughran, NBCT
National Board Certified Teacher,
Fry's Library Media Center Director, &
Young Authors' Chairperson



Guidelines for Manuscript Development

- ❑ All manuscripts should be checked for completeness, correct spelling, punctuation, and neatness.
- ❑ Acceptable styles of writing are poetry, story, or essay. Try expository, narrative or persuasive writing! Consider fiction or non-fiction! Let your imagination run wild. Be creative!
- ❑ The author determines length and format. There is no size requirement for the book in terms of length, height, width, or shape.
- ❑ The work must be original; the child must conceive the entire story. Adults may offer encouragement and criticism but may not act as “ghost writers.” Adults may, however, point out mechanical errors or areas of concern without specifically telling students what to write.
- ❑ Students are asked to work alone on the project. No joint manuscripts will be accepted.
- ❑ Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult but must be in the student’s own “voice”.
- ❑ **IMPORTANT! Manuscripts must be in book form with a substantial cover and pages securely attached. A title page **MUST** accompany the manuscript. The title page should include the title, author, and year. An “About the Author” page should also be included at the end of the book. It should include a picture of the author and a little bit about their interests and their writing.** Manuscripts received without a cover, title page, an about the author page, and those that are not in book form will not be entered into the judging process. Covers may be as fancy or as simple as the author desires, as long as they are well bound. Many people could be handling the manuscript and we don't want any lost pages! **EXAMPLES** of well bound manuscripts that have held up well with lots of people handling them include spiral binding, comb binding, tape binding, several staples, reinforced holes, 3 ring binder, a blank book (can be purchased at The Chalkboard), etc. Report covers that have a sliding side plastic piece and clear front cover have proven not to hold up under so much handling even though they do look sturdy. Please consider other alternatives. We cannot be responsible for missing pages.
- ❑ **The classroom teacher must receive all manuscripts, on or before Thursday, March 1, 2018.** Judging of the manuscripts will begin thereafter. Please have the manuscript delivered to school by the due date in order for it to be included in the judging process.
- ❑ Failure to comply with ANY of these guidelines will disqualify the entry from the judging process. Please follow ALL of these guidelines so that your writing qualifies!
- ❑ Students may write about any topic they wish, but if names and/or pictures of Fry School staff or students are used, written permission **MUST** be granted ahead of time and be included in the back of the manuscript. If written permission is not included with your manuscript, the manuscript cannot be judged or displayed.

Good luck, Fry Young Authors! Let your creativity shine!

