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*Excellence in IB & Dual Language Education*

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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you to Chris Vincze for bringing the Student Author Movement to Conniston Middle School! I highly recommend this program as an inspiration for students to engage in the writing process. Stephen Kozan came to our school the day after the FSA Writing exam. As one can imagine, I heard a lot of complaints from students prior to the event about "making" them write AGAIN! Well, that changed pretty quickly once Kozan and Claire shared their journey in writing and illustrating books and made our students part of this process by including their input to create a fantasy character with InstaART.

This workshop taught students the importance of editing - not only during writing but as a process to use in every part of life. The illustrating process was also brought to life and made tangible by showing how illustrations were erased and redrawn. Meeting an author that is so frank and approachable is very helpful in making students understand that everyone can write, not just a few special people that are born with this magical talent. Participating in the Flash Fiction exercise and being entered into a contest to become a published author made this point even more real to our students. There are many students who are excited and hopeful for the results. Students who did not participate in the workshop are interested in it as well and wished they could have been there.

I would love to have Kozan back at our school next year! Our students really enjoyed this inspiring and engaging hands-on workshop. They enjoyed it so much that I had to ask for permission to allow students to be late to their next class so they could keep writing. The teachers that participated are already thinking about next year as well!

Thank you,

Annya Rizzo  
Media Specialist

