



WATSON B.
Duncan
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Mr. Phillip D'Amico
Principal

April 12, 2022

Assistant Principals:
Mary Raiford
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Dear Chris,

Watson B. Duncan Middle School would like to extend a huge thank you for bringing the Student Author Movement and Stephen Kozan to our school last week.

Our students come from many diverse backgrounds and most have never met a real author. Having the opportunity to listen, learn, and write with Mr. Kozan was a unique experience for the students in our Literature Academy. Stephen had the students engaged right from the start with games of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" to determine who would choose the next feature for an invented story character. He shared his own personal journey of becoming a writer, as well as how everyday events can become inspirations for stories. Students were impressed and encouraged to see published novels written by similar aged peers. Mr. Kozan's energy was contagious and the students loved his humor.

When Stephen released them to begin writing their own Flash Fiction, it wasn't met with the usual groans that accompany an assignment. The entire room went quiet and pencils started flying. Every student felt like a writer and was enthusiastic about taking on the challenge.

What impressed me the most was when Stephen took the time to chat with 3 students who had missed the presentation. Even though he was packed and ready to leave our school, he opened his bags and shared his stories with those students. He explained the Flash Fiction assignment and encouraged each of them to write their story over the weekend. I gave the students my email and told them to submit their pieces to me. First thing Monday morning, I had 3 pieces of writing in my inbox, ready for Stephen. I knew the time he took with them on Friday had definitely left an impression.

We are already looking forward to Stephen's visit next year and who our next published author will be. Thank you again for giving Duncan Middle School students this incredible opportunity!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Boutte
Media Specialist