

**Young Writer's Day**  
**Glen Acres Elementary School**  
**December 13, 2019**

Young Writers' Day took place on Friday, December 13 from 9:00-12:00 at Glen Acres Elementary School. Writers from around the area shared their expertise with students in grades K-5. Kindergarten students attended a forty-five minute assembly with an author/song writer while students in grades 1-5 worked with writers in their classrooms. The writers that attended included a playwright, a freelance writer, a storyteller, a music performer and producer, songwriters, children's authors and illustrators, a sports editor and a magazine editor.

Young Writers' Day brought real life experiences to students. Students were actively engaged in presentations while challenged to think creatively and stretch their imaginations. Through listening, observing and hands on practice, students practiced their oral and written communication skills in line with the PA Common Core Standards.

The goal was to provide students with exposure, modeling and practice of oral and written communication. This goal was met through the mini workshops provided by the guest writers in addition to follow up lessons with the classroom teachers. Each mini workshop resulted in a finished product. For instance, a songwriter shared her music and guided a class through composing a class song. A storyteller and origami artist shared stories, modeled origami art and helped the students create their own piece of origami. A playwright taught the students about the components of drama and helped the students create mini-plays.

This program is highly motivating to students and teachers. With the help of the West Chester Area Education Foundation, we would like to bring this program to Glen Acres Elementary School again next year. We will continue to invite local writers to promote written communication skills, a love for the arts and exposure to real life careers.

## YOUNG WRITERS' DAY IN ACTION

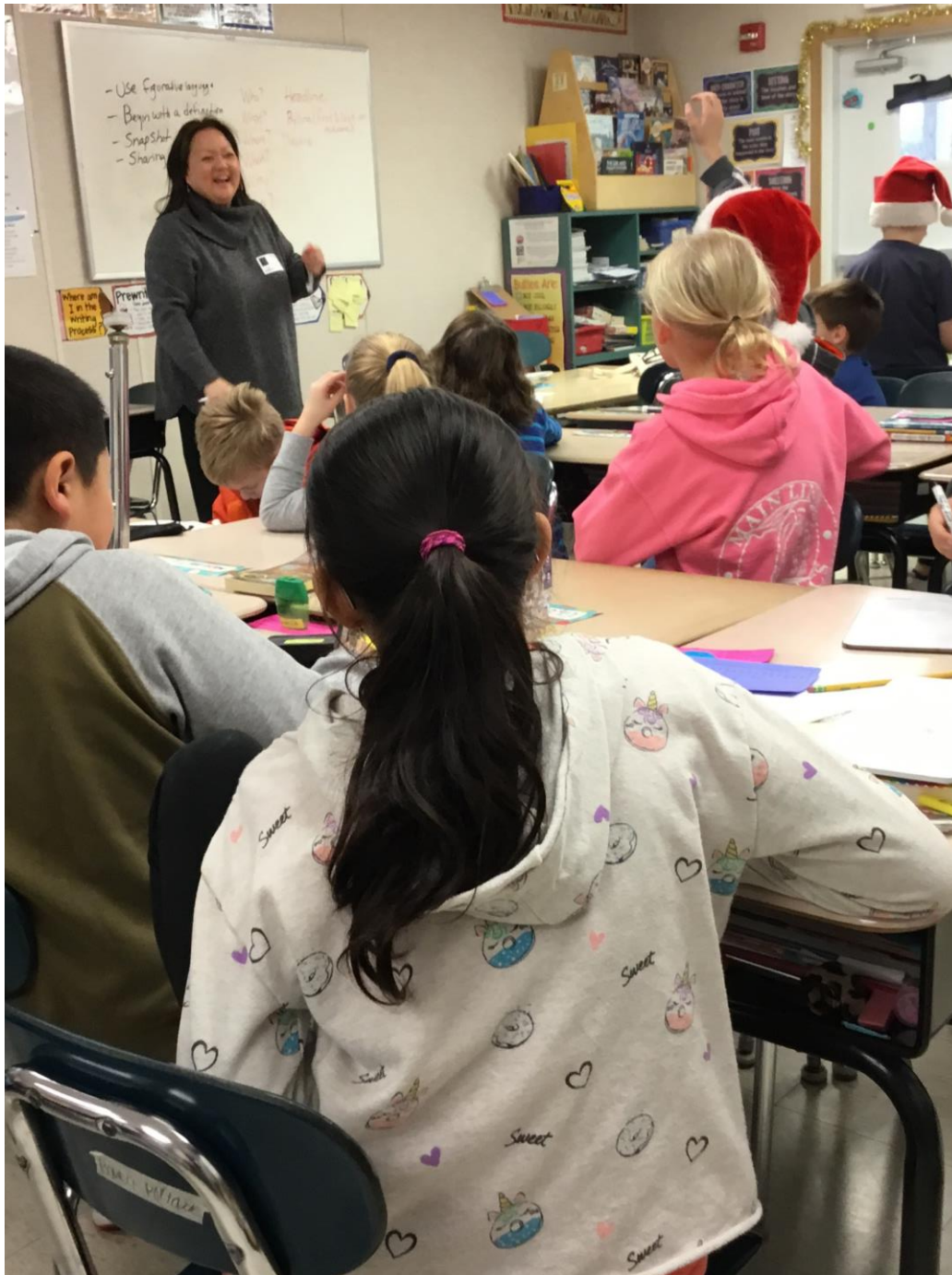


**Kindergarten assembly with Robert Scott Thayer**, author of Kobee Manatee children's educational picture book series. Robert has a passion for manatees and a strong interest in weather, oceans, and sea life, all of which are subjects for other titles in his series. He has won several international songwriting awards. Grammy Award winner, Jim Cravero, produced Thayer's newest children's tune, *Kobee's Song*. Robert has a degree from Temple University and is a member of the Author's Guild, SCBWI, and Save the Manatee Club.



**Second grade workshop with Megan Hicks**, storyteller and origami artist. Megan dives heart first into every story she tells – fairy tales, personal stories, American history, ghost or humor ... and magically her listeners follow. She performs throughout the U.S. and recently completed her second month-long trip to China weaving stories together with her origami artistry. Her awards include a Parents' Choice silver award for a CD "What Was Civil About That War?". She has also received the Parents' Guide to Children's Media Award and a Storytelling World Honor among other recognition. Megan has been a featured "teller" at the Jonesboro International Storytelling Festival.





**Fourth grade workshop with Sharon Chung**, freelance writer and chief copy editor for Payne Capital Management in Blue Bell, PA. Sharon worked for the *Courier Post* in Cherry Hill, NJ and the *Bucks County Courier Times* as a general assignment reporter. She has been both a general assignment reporter and editorial assistant for the Associated Press and a freelance reporter for *Philadelphia Weekly*.