Downers Grove Area Council of PTAs Author Fest 2023 & Beyond

11/16/22

History of Author Fest

Begun in 1980, three districts (District 58, District 69, and District 61) worked together to create a weeklong celebration of children's authors about once every three years during the "Downers Grove Area Children's Author Festival." Classroom by classroom visits were made by a roster of up to 34 authors and culminated in a book fair and signing event at the public library.

In 1999, the Festival was restructured to split the schools served in half with each set of schools hosting authors on alternate years and to allow assemblies as well as classroom visits.

As recently as 2003, District 61 schools (Fairview and Lace) were still participating in the Children's Author Festival.
District 69 became part of District 58 in 2004.
The name was shortened to Author Fest by 2012.

Author Fest Mission

The mission of the Downers Grove Area PTA Council Author Fest is to give all District 58 students an equitable and personal experience with diverse authors and/or illustrators to inspire reading and writing. Author Fest is funded annually by the PTAs and is planned in collaboration with Parents, Teacher Librarians, and Administration.

Author Fest Guidelines

Building PTA Chair(s) Responsibilities

- Advocate for a generous contribution from your PTA for the PTA Council Author Fest Fund.
- Plan to provide funds or donations-in-kind for one author lunch (not to exceed $15 value) and supplemental books for the School Library and/or classrooms.
- Ensure final dates/times are on the PTA and building calendars including the book signing evening. Complete required building use forms as necessary.
- Help to prepare welcome signs and designate parking space for author on the day of the visit.
- Work with Teacher Librarian to determine which children should eat lunch with author.
- Promote the Author Fest Book Signing using the promotional material provided by the PTA Council.
- Provide author with beverage/snack and lunch as identified on author preference form which will be provided in advance.
- On day of presentation: "greet" author (or designate alternative greeter), show important locations (bathrooms, etc.), introduce author to Teacher Librarian, and assist in supervising any lunch event.

While it is appropriate to provide thank you notes to authors (either at event of as a follow-up), authors should not receive special gifts from schools where they present nor should schools hold additional lunch/dinner receptions for author separate from District events

Author Fest Guidelines

Teacher Librarian Responsibilities

- Work with PTA Council Co-Chairs to select a slate of authors. You will receive visits from up to three authors from this slate.
- Identify and resolve any conflicts or room constraints within the projected dates.
- Ensure final dates & times are on your building calendar and given to classroom teachers including evening book signing.
- Inform classroom teachers of coming authors and make read aloud suggestions.
- Create displays for Author Fest authors & books.
- Evaluate book needs; ILL books from other schools & work with the Building PTA Chair to order supplemental books.
- Educate and prepare students for author visits.
- Have discussions about appropriate questions students might want to ask and encourage students to write down questions.
- Ensure students have adequate supervision during the visits with the preference being for you to attend all visits.
- Prepare for any tech needs for day of visit (author specific needs will be provided in advance.)
- Encourage students to write thank you letters to authors that have visited.

While it is appropriate to provide thank you notes to authors (either at event of as a follow-up), authors should not receive special gifts from schools where they present nor should schools hold additional lunch/dinner receptions for author separate from District events

Schedule

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bimvsbY_bCqZqAWU1KO2x6yyut0Yc-6mkOeD0TSt6wA/edit?usp=sharing

Building Contacts

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/149n6huOiDrVheLuWy4Xu5jYpLUJz5dNkpi-P8RhH1yE/edit#gid=0

Author cost?

Email from Mac Barnett's admin: Mac loves visiting schools. His presentation involves some reading, some (in his words!) amateurish drawing, and some talking about the writing process.It's very entertaining! Also, Mac used to run a nonprofit writing program called 826LA, so he's happy and comfortable leading workshops for children, if that's something you're interested in. His presentations vary according to grade level, but always focus on books and writing in a way that makes sense to the kids he's talking to.

Mac's rate is $5,000 per day + travel expenses.

Dear Kim & Aubrey,

I'm Adam Gidwitz's booking agent and I'd love to help you connect with award-winning children's author Adam Gidwitz and your young readers! I'm happy to assist you!

Adam is a dynamic speaker with a special gift for engaging children and teens. All of his programs and writers workshops are interactive. Below are a few of his popular presentations. We don't cap the size of the assemblies but do have a maximum number of students for workshops at 40.

Adam would love to visit your schools in **Downers Grove, IL from Apr 26-28, 2023.** His honorarium is $4,000 plus travel expenses (air, car rental, lodging, meals) for up to three 45-60min presentations and book signings in a day.

Funding for Authorfest

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yzioGkXKziXJlQMZF4WeqmNpsxlcfN5yaWpu4edvpAE/edit?usp=sharing

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