

Springs Public School

SPRINGS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EAST HAMPTON
48 SCHOOL STREET, SPRINGS
EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK 11937
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April 3, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

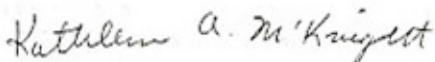
On March 25, 1998, The Springs School had the pleasure of hosting author/illustrator Chris Soentpiet. And indeed the experience was a pleasure. Mr. Soentpiet has the rare ability to both create children's books and relate to children in a presentation setting. Chris' presentations were well planned and orchestrated. They combined slides, drawing demonstrations, face painting and anecdotes. Through humorous and often touching stories, the students learned about Chris' childhood and early adult life. Many told me afterward that they were impressed by the fact that Mr. Soentpiet was able to be so successful despite his difficult childhood. Mr. Soentpiet showed, rather than told, students the important lesson that success comes from hard work and determination.

Throughout the day teachers who had seen Chris Soentpiet's presentation approached me. The teachers were very enthusiastic and each one commented on how wonderful it was that Chris could connect with the students. These teachers instruct on all levels from Kindergarten through sixth grade. Likewise, students approached me in the days following Chris' visit to ask when he was coming back. They begged for Chris' sketches and eagerly checked out all the Chris Soentpiet books in the library. Many expressed their desire to become an illustrator and/or author.

As an observer, I witnessed how Chris modified his presentation to fit the audience. He was able to sense almost immediately which stories and what tone would work for each audience. I was especially impressed when the fifth and sixth grade classes attended the presentation. Although these classes are notoriously rambunctious, they were silent and perfectly behaved during Chris' talk, slideshow and demonstration. They were also prompted to ask insightful, pertinent questions.

For the reasons stated above, I give Chris Soentpiet my full recommendation without hesitation. Please feel free to contact me in the Springs School library at (516) 324-0144 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McKnight

Librarian, The Springs School