

Canaan Elementary School
59 Fry Boulevard
Patchogue, NY 11772

Dear Chris,

It is with pleasure and admiration that I am writing this letter to you. We had a great experience when you visited our school.

The children marveled at the organization of your displays showing the entire layout of pictures from the book, Peace Train. Your simple way of explaining the way a book is made brought joy to my heart. The children all told me that they wished that our whole school could have heard you! Several kids actually got into a heated debate when one of our older students was shown the pictures in the book about Booker T. Washington. They eventually came to me to verify that you had said that the writing in several illustrations was done in brown sugar. The unbeliever was quickly converted and just shook his head. He then proceeded to check the book out so that he could show the other kids in his fifth grade class. That, Chris, is education which will last a lifetime, and you made it happen!

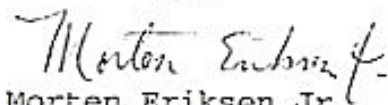
As you may remember, our District plans author visits for only one hour, but everyone was terribly disappointed when the hour was up and you had to leave. The faculty is going to ask that this policy be changed in order to get the full value of your personal experience during your visit.

You may also remember that I allowed a fifth grade class with their art teacher, Lorie Briggman, to attend this session even though it brought our library above its seating capacity. Even with a full library, there was not a sound, no disruptions, and you even held the interest of our special-ed kids! That class raved about their "special" privilege.

During lunchtime in our faculty room Lorie told everyone that they had truly missed a very gifted illustrator! Many faculty members had stopped by during your presentation and verified this. Lorie and I want you to come back to our school in the near future so that our children can personally see and hear as Lorie said, "...what you can do in the field of graphic arts when you have talent".

Your method of explaining the way that the illustrations were accomplished was quite beneficial to the children's understanding of how a book is made. Your work should be shared with all levels of students. We look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely yours,



Morten Eriksen, Jr.
Library Media Specialist

P.S. The children whose faces were painted as an illustration of another one of your books became "stars" throughout the day!