



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 PARK RIDGE-NILES

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March 21, 2002

Dear Chris,

Thank you very much for the wonderful and extremely professional presentation you gave at Lincoln Middle School on March 14, 2002. The students and staff are still talking about you and your beautiful art work. Not only were you an excellent speaker, you were also, an amazing educator. The slides you shared about preparing the watercolor paper, the tools you use, the photographic process you follow to get everything, including the lighting, just right were very informational. The students were impressed with the fact that you used photography to keep your characters' images consistent throughout each book as it unfolded. They gained a greater respect for the picture book process and how much work is involved with seeing a book to completion. I liked the fact that you told the students to use the library for research and to use their imagination as well.

When I decided to contact you for a visit, I called librarians and teachers who had experienced your presentations. They were overwhelmingly complimentary and now that you have been here at Lincoln, I fully agree. The staff and parents, who were also in attendance, were totally impressed with all the knowledge and talent you shared. Teachers who never comment about presentations said your presentation was, by far, the best we have ever had here at our school.

Your respect and attitude towards the students was very apparent. You are definitely a caring and sensitive person who can influence and inspire young people to be anything they want to be. To quote some of our students..."Chris Soentpiet is awesome"... "he was cool"... "he really knows how to draw"...and "I really wanted to listen to what he had to say"...all of these comments coming from my middle school students was very heartwarming to me and I knew I had scored a definite winning program...

Thank you very, very much...you were spectacular.

Warmest regards of appreciation,

Nancy Cleckner
Librarian
Lincoln Middle School