

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL
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MARCH 21, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I AM WRITING TO HIGHLY RECOMMEND AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR CHRIS SOENTPIET AS A VISITING PRESENTER. CHRIS HAS BEEN TO OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL, AT LEAST THREE SEPARATE TIMES. EACH TIME, HE HAS DONE TWO PRESENTATIONS, ONE FOR GRADES K-2, AND THE OTHER FOR GRADES 3-5. BOTH PRESENTATIONS WERE OUTSTANDING, BOTH IN CONTENT AND PRESENTATION QUALITY. HE IS EXTREMELY PREPARED, BRINGING EXAMPLES OF HIS ARTWORK, COPIES OF HIS BOOKS, AND ALL THE MATERIALS HE NEEDS FOR HIS PRESENTATIONS.

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO HOLD THE ATTENTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, BUT CHRIS MANAGES TO DO THIS AND MORE, EQUALLY WITH THE FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS AS WITH THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSES. HIS ENTHUSIASM AND PASSION SHINE THROUGH IN HIS PRESENTATIONS. HE USES STORIES ABOUT HIS LIFE TO HOOK THE STUDENTS AND GET THEIR ATTENTION, AND FROM THAT POINT ON, THE STUDENTS ARE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE. HE GETS EVERYONE VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY INVOLVED IN HIS PRESENTATIONS, WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE ENJOYABLE, BOTH FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF.

ANYTIME YOU CAN HAVE CHRIS AS A GUEST ILLUSTRATOR AT YOUR SCHOOL, GRAB THE CHANCE. I HAVE BEEN TEACHING FOR 27 YEARS, AND HE IS ABSOLUTELY AT THE TOP OF MY LIST!

SINCERELY,

ANDREA GERSTENBLATT
LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, JFK SCHOOL, GREAT NECK, NY