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FEATURED

Author visits Church Hill Elementary School

22 hrs ago



Local author Carol Franks-Randall of Centreville reads from her book “Jamal and Me” to students at Church Hill Elementary School on Monday, Oct. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHURCH HILL — Local author Carol Franks-Randall visited Church Hill Elementary School on Monday, Oct. 15. Franks-Randall, author of the children’s book “Jamal and Me,” published in 2017, and “Playground Heroes,” published in June 2018, spent the entire day at the school reading “Jamal and Me” to students in grades PreK-4, and engaging the students in grade level writing/art activities.

The program was coordinated by Carrie Foreman, library/media specialist, and took place in the school’s library/media center.

“Dr. Franks-Randall has combined her extensive educational background with her love of books. She has written books that address issues happening in our schools in a way that students can identify with and learn. ‘Jamal and Me’ helps students accept and give new students a chance. The lesson being that kindness and caring can change a person’s life,” said Foreman.

In addition to reading aloud, writing and creating posters, Franks-Randall also talked to the students about the process of writing a children’s book. She explained how it takes many drafts to complete a finished product. She encouraged the students to take their creative writing seriously and not be afraid to continue to make their work the best it can be.

“Dr. Franks-Randall’s presentation was a wonderful experience for our students. Learning how a real author applied the writing process to her craft was an inspiration. Dr. Franks-Randall’s book, Jamal and Me, captured the true essence of childhood issues and dealt with them in a positive, realistic manner,” said Church Hill Elementary Principal Jacquelyn Wilhelm.

Many of the students reviewed Franks-Randall’s website prior to her visit and asked lots of questions about her hobbies, interests and why she became a children’s book author.



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“What an incredible way to present a tough childhood issue to students! Dr. Franks-Randall was engaging and sincere in her presentation, and left our students with a thoughtful message on kindness,” said fourth grade teacher Stacey Deighan.

Franks-Randall, a retired educator from New York has lived in Centreville for nine years. You can reach her by visiting her website at <https://carolfranksrandall.com>.