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CHILDREN'S AUTHOR AND ALUMNA VISITS MERAMEC ELEMENTARY

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Children's Author and Alumna Visits Meramec Elementary

Meramec Elementary students in kindergarten through third grade had a special visitor on Oct. 6. Meramec Elementary and CHS alumna Ellen Fischer ('65) stopped by for a visit to share her new book, *If an Elephant Went to School*.

From the time she was a little girl Fischer knew she wanted to work with children. It was that calling that led her to become a teacher.

"When I went to school to become a teacher, my focus was on special education," said Fischer. "I always knew I wanted to work with children with special needs."

Although Fischer's focus was in special education, she also taught English as a Second Language and various grade levels throughout her 20-year teaching career.

It wasn't until she retired that she pursued her second calling, which was to write children's books. While Fischer wrote her first book more than 40 years ago, she didn't actually take it to a publisher until after she retired from teaching. Fischer has since spent the past eight years writing and publishing children's books, with her eighth book to be released in March 2016.

After reading *If an Elephant Went to School* with the Meramec students, Fischer and the students shared what they have learned from school. Students also asked questions of Fischer.

One student asked how she comes up with the ideas for the books she writes, and Fischer explained that the ideas come from everyday life experiences. She engaged students with a story about how her popular book, *If an Armadillo Went to a Restaurant*, came to fruition. The story stemmed from a game she and her grandson were playing at a restaurant while they were waiting for their food.

Fischer's visit to Meramec served as an inspiration to students; she has been able to pursue many of her passions in life because of her perseverance. Students are always encouraged to consider what their future careers might hold. Fischer's career path served as an example to Meramec students that they can do anything – and everything – they have the motivation to pursue.



EVENTS

All Events

Nov 27



Class of 2010 - Five-Year Reunion

Jun 03



Clayton Alumni Hall of Fame

Sep 09



Class of 1961 - 55th Reunion

Sep 24



26th Annual Alumni BBQ



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