

The Hawk



An Interview With K.E. Rocha, Author of *Secrets of Bearhaven* By Student Editor Cheyenne Tressler

I got the chance to interview the author that came to our school on March 15, 2016 K.E. Rocha the author of *Secrets of Bearhaven*. Enjoy!

Me: Where did you come up with the idea for the series?

K.E. Rocha: I got to work with a team so the idea isn't all mine.

Part of the idea came from my teammates, and together we decided to write about a series about a boy named Spencer who would really learn what it meant to stand up for the things he believed in and really rise to the challenge and become a bear rescuing operative.

Me: How did you come up with the characters names?

K.E. Rocha: Well, the characters names are always difficult to come up with because you don't want to, you know, name them after someone you love or don't like or you know you never know what's going to happen in life so especially

when you're with a team everyone has a different idea about what a name means.

But for Spencer his name actually comes from a street sign on the side of a highway between New York and Boston.

Me: What kind of bear is your favorite?

K.E. Rocha: Black bears are definitely my favorite and specifically spirit bears which are the really rare white bears that only come from a part of Canada are my favorite because they are super hard to find.

Me: How did you come up with the idea for the opening of the lab?

K.E. Rocha: I'm not actually a very high tech person and I think that's good because I don't really know what's possible or not in terms of technology so I really just got to imagine what the hardest way for someone to figure out to get through a completely closed wall would be, and for me I

thought there's no way it would occur to me if I was standing at a full wall to send a puff of air at it in order to get open into a door.

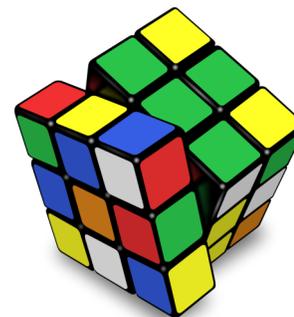
Me: What made you want to become a writer?

K.E. Rocha: I have wanted to become a writer since I was a little kid. My Grandfather was not a writer but he loved to paint, and write poetry in his free time, and he always wanted me to be a writer. So we didn't live close together but he would cut a picture out from the newspaper and he would write a story about it, and then he would mail me that story and that picture, and he would ask me to write my own story about the very same picture so I would send stories back to him, and we had this like pen pal story writing relationship that was really special and that helped me learn to write.

Me: What is your favorite Continued on page 3

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Got Rubic Cube?

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Mr. Graf on the Roof! By Kathryn Hoover

I think just about every kid at Vernfield knows about Mr. Graf sleeping on the roof. But why? Mr. Graf is sleeping on the roof because each class has received at least 75% of Race for Education labels from their students.

Everyone at school is excited, especially the teachers! At the March town meeting, Mr. Graf received a large package full of supplies for his campout: a sleeping bag, a teddy bear, a lantern, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a pillow pet, and some more tools to help him during his night on the roof.

When will he sleep on the roof? "Probably in May, maybe the night of Race for Education," says Mr. Graf.

I think everyone is very excited for the night when Mr. Graf will sleep on the roof. So sleep tight and don't let the bedbugs bite!

Field Day By Mandy Pierson & Jackie McCoy

This year like every year at Vernfield Elementary, we will have an event named Field Day. We will have lots of activities throughout the school day. Some of the activities will be the Water Relay, Gold Mine, and Sling Shots. We also have a Frisbee game. There are so many games that we play, it's too many to list! Each class is divided in teams with the colors, red, yellow, green, and blue. We are both sure that you

would have tons of fun during the day. We are positively sure about it because you get to be around your friends and will have fun competing in the relays. Field Day is not that far away so we hope that you have the best time of your life! Are you ready? Let's go Vernfield, Let's go! Hmmmmm... I wonder if the Hawk will be there to watch the fun with everybody else. YAY Vernfield! We wish you a very great Field Day!

Behind the Scenes of the Spring Concert By Morgan McCormack

The orchestra has been meeting every Friday from 8:45-9:15 and lessons on Mondays and Fridays to practice amazing songs: First Scale March, Chorale, T.V. Jingles, Final Jeopardy Think Theme Song, Medieval Kings and Happy Blues. Fourth grade chorus meets every Tuesday and fifth grade chorus meets every Wednesday from 8:45-9:15. The chorus students will be singing Siyahamba, When I Close My Eyes, Anything You Can Do, and Old Joe Clark.

Peer Mediators By Abraham Bleazard

Who are peer mediators? Peer mediators are 4th grade kids who help third graders. They have special badges and clipboards to show that they are peer mediators. They stand around the playground and watch the third graders play. They are chosen by other fourth graders. Then they are taught how to handle problems. They have ground rules to follow if you are in

a disagreement or fight. One rule is no name calling or put downs. The ground rules help stop a lot of the fighting when the peer-



mediators are solving the problem. They ask each part of the story and then ask the third grade students how they can stop the problem and forgive each other.

Race For Education

By James McCoy

Race for Education will be coming up soon! Are you ready? Race for Education is a fundraiser for our school. Each Vernfield student will get to participate. There will be music playing to motivate all of us while we walk or run outside on the playground. Every lap that we complete counts! Don't worry, we will get to take breaks at the pavillion. There will be water for drinking while we rehydrate. Also a nice prize will be given to students who have completed the most laps. We will all have a fun time!

Reading Olympics By Kayla Godshall

On March 16th Reading Olympics took place at the Souderton Area High School. There were a lot of teams there including students in fourth and fifth grades who represented our school Vernfield Elementary. Now not everyone participated in Reading Olympics this year, but congratulations to the people who did! During Reading Olympics that night, each group normally switched from

room to room and there was a scorekeeper and a monitor who asked each team questions about books. If you read that book you put your fist in the middle of the group and you put your thumb up if you know the answer to the question! You competed against other teams from different schools that do Reading Olympics too. If your team earned 50+ points, you received a blue ribbon. A red ribbon means your

team earned- 40- 49 points. A green ribbon earned 30-39 points, and yellow ribbon- 29 points and below. Like I said, congratulations to everyone who participated in it and I hope every fourth grader who did it this year will do it next year as well!



Mr. Pongras, Spring Concert

I asked Mr. Pongras, our band teacher, about the 2016 Spring Concert here at Vernfield! The concert is scheduled to be held on May 3rd, 2016.

Our first concert held at Vernfield, was in the spring of May, 2004. At that concert, the band played Manchester March, Londerry Air, and America the Beautiful. That year, there were 41 students, but this year we broke the record of 60, having a total of 64 students in band! This year the songs are Midnight Mission, Thunderbolt Peak, Centennial Jubilee, and Gentle River. Centennial Jubilee and Gentle River are my personal favorites! Mr. Pongras said

to me, "I pick songs that will be a challenge to the students. I also try to pick an easy piece, a middle of the road piece, and a stretch piece."

My next question, "What progress do you see from the winter concert to the spring concert?" His response, "With the 5th graders I see, growth in student ability and the 4th graders can actually play *real* songs!" In band, there are 18 different parts going on, but they all are somewhat alike. Get ready for *lots* of instruments thrown at you, because Mr. Pongras said, "I can play... Violin, Cello, Viola, Bass, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, all Saxophones, all types of

Clarinets, Trumpet, French Horn, all percussion, Trombone, Tuba, Piano, and Baritone!" Whew! Oh, and he also said he could NOT play the guitar

to save his life! And just in case you were wondering, yes he can play Orchestra instruments too! So, my advice is when you're in 4th grade, make sure to sign up for an instrument!

Hope to see you at the Spring Concert!

BY:
Ava Mills



K.E. Rocha Interview Continued....

K.E. Rocha: You know I am actually a poet. Before I wrote Bearhaven I was writing poetry, and when I'm just writing for myself, and not trying to get something published or make a living being a writer I write poetry.

ME: How did you come across the word rago?

K.E. Rocha: Well I had help from a linguist whose whole job was to invent the language and raga which is also the word for 4. So raga means 4 because all four paws together make one full bear. So that's where rago, their language, comes from.

ME: Who is your favorite writer?

K.E. Rocha: I have a lot of writers who I love. I think the one who I most hope to be like is J.K. Rowling, the author of *Harry Potter*. I really ad-

"Whenever I am looking for ideas, and really need inspiration, I like to take walks with my dog..."

mire her, and hope that one day Spencer Plains adventures are as fabulous as Harry Potters were.

ME: What is your favorite subject in school?

K.E. Rocha: English is always my favorite subject. I love reading. I have always loved reading and

writing so that has always been my favorite.

ME: Do you have any fun facts you think the school would like to know?

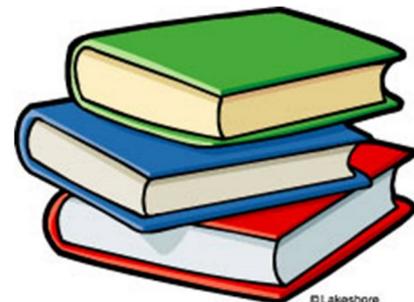
K.E. Rocha: My dog Reggie makes it into the book.. Whenever I am looking for ideas, and really need inspiration, I like to take walks with my dog and I get a lot of my ideas when I'm on walks by myself with my dog.

I hope you enjoyed learning more about K.E. Rocha. She was a wonderful lady to talk to. It was great to meet her in person and learn more about her. *It was such a neat opportunity and I just need to say thank you to my teacher Mrs Mandia for making this all happen. I had such a great time!*

Reading Olympics By Seth Grossman

In Reading Olympics each group works together as a team. Each student must read a minimum of six books. During the Reading Olympics Event there are three competitions. Kids from around Montgomery County compete not just our school district. Questions are asked about the books on the list and the team has 20 seconds to answer. If you don't work together, it won't work

out well. This year Vernfield had five teams. The highest ribbon awarded was blue. It is for getting at least 50 questions right. This year Vernfield won three blue ribbons and two red ribbons!



©Lakeshore

Spring

By Molly Goodman and Emily

Rychlack

I hear birds chirping,

I feel the wind blowing,

I see buzzing bees,

I smell the sweet sunny air.

I taste the ripe berries, Spring is here!

Motherly Love

Mother Crickets singing a lullaby to their children

children

As their restless bodies give up.

Young butterflies

Twisting and turning

Doing a dance performance.

For the mother blue jays

Looking for worms

For their young hatchlings,

Mother spider

Teaching her children

How to weave a web,

Mother frogs coaching young tadpoles

To catch flies.

By

Erin Magee

Summer

By Molly Goodman and Emily Rychlack

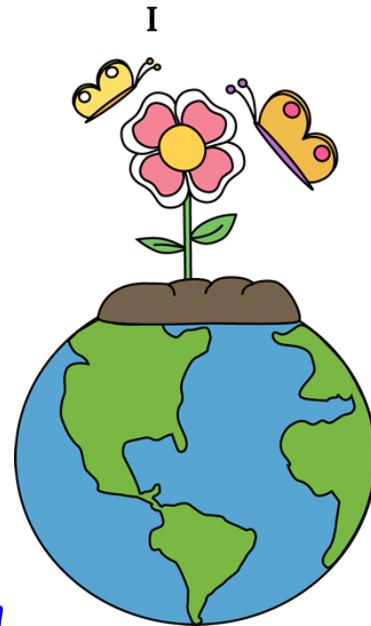
The sun is rising, the air feels light and fluffy.

You hear the children playing.

The day comes to an end, and the night glows

with fireflies,

There's a sunset in the sky.



Earth Day at Vernfield Elementary!

Earth Day Scoop

Hello it's Naomi and Anna. We interviewed Mrs. Stratton to see what is planned for Earth Day.

Q: What kind of activities are we doing this year?

Mrs. Stratton: This year we are doing lots of fun activities. Peace Valley is coming to do a presentation on birds. We'll be playing games on the nature trail and planting seeds in our new and improved garden."

Q: What do you love about Earth Day?

Mrs. Stratton: I enjoy creating fun educational games for kids to learn about nature and the environment. My favorite part about Earth Day is seeing the smiles on the kids faces while they are enjoying the Earth Day stations.

Q: Who started Earth Day at the school?

Mrs. Stratton: Suzanne Thomas.

Q: What made you want take on the responsibility?

Mrs. Stratton: Three years ago Suzanne's kids left to go to middle school and there was nobody to run Earth Day. I enjoyed volunteering so much I decided to take on the the responsibility.

Q: Why did they start Earth Day?

Mrs. Stratton: To promote a love and respect for nature and the outdoors.

Now that you know what is going down with Earth Day you probably can't wait for it to happen. I know we can't.



Searching for insects!

By Naomi Thompson and Anna Stratton

Hawk Search

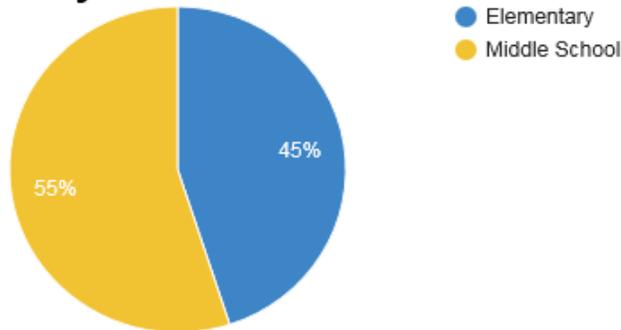
By: Adam Turano

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BOOKS
RECESS
CLASSROOM
SCHOOL
GYM
SCIENCE
LUNCH
STUDENT

Since the school year is coming to a close, we decided to interview twenty fifth graders at Vernfield Elementary school and ask them whether they would miss elementary school more, or whether they were looking forward to middle school more. Here are the results of our interviews.

Fifth Grade Votes by: Clare Bagley and Peyton Krebs



- Middle School= Fifth Graders more excited for Middle School
- Elementary= Fifth Graders who will miss Vernfield more