Author

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Cook discussed issues of friendship, achievement, trust and anger in her presentation for parents Monday night.

Cook began her presentation on friendship by reading a book she has written about colored pencils. Her lessons included what it means to be a true friend and liking yourself before you can expect others to like you as a friend.

Šhe also explained achievement in a way children can understand. While displaying a picture of a fuzzy caterpillar and a butterfly, Cook said settling for anything less than the best results in a caterpillar.

"Kids get a fuzzy caterpillar when they couldn't make a beautiful butterfly," she said. "You want to be proud of who you are, and when you put your name on your assignment, it's a reflection of you. You don't want to put your name on something that's a fuzzy caterpillar when you can be a beautiful butterfly with a little more work."

Cook's ultimate goal is to help kids become better problem

solvers. Reading a book, she said, is a great way to get inside their heads and connect what they need to learn with something they already know.

"In order to teach a child, you have to enter their view of the world," she said. "If you have something you want a child to know and you read them a story that models parenting and it models strategy, the kid is going to start to believe they can solve their own problems."

Each book Cook has written focuses on teaching kids to solve their own problems, and she said because parents have such little time and so much to teach their children, if they can read a book, they can kill two birds with one stone.

"Smarter than the Scoopers" demonstrates ways children can be smarter than people who may be trying to kidnap them. "I Am a Booger ... Treat Me With Respect" instructs children of the proper way to dispose of mucus. "My Mouth is a Volcano" gives kids a visual way of seeing how non-stop talking can be disruptive

"Ône of the coolest compliments I've ever gotten was when a little kid said, 'Mrs. Cook, you've changed my life. I used to interrupt all the time (until I read 'Volcano'). You've made me a better person,''' Cook re-

called. "To hear that from a 6-yearold — if I never get another compli-ment in my life, I'll die a very happy person.

"I was a kid who had ADHD. I was told all my life what I can't do and what I shouldn't do. I just have a soft spot for kids who struggle. We have to be here and teach our kids. We might as well have a good time doing it.'

Cook also discussed ways to speak with children about disasters and violence, a topic she said is relevant because of the school shooting in Conn. She told parents to talk with their kids, tell them the truth about what happened and admit it if they don't know why something happened.

Beadle's principal Carey Mitzel said giving teachers and students the chance to listen to Cook speak was a great opportunity.

"That's how we got the idea to bring her in," he said. "Our counselors have used the books in the past and then started sharing those with our classroom teachers. Some of the kids were aware of that, and it's always great for kids to hear from a published author about the writing process.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge

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were participating.

Money raised from the event will be used to purchase computer software for the school's new computer lab. Although they said it was diffi-

cult to concentrate because of their nervousness and the noise in the gym, second-graders Oliver Dooley and Wyatt Holmstrom said they were happy with their performances.

"It was really fun," Holmstrom said. "I hope we do this again next year."

Dooley said the challenge was a good way to learn, and that he appreciated his grandma helping him to study the questions at every opportunity.

Both 8-year-olds were im-pressed that so many people from the community had showed up to help with the event.

They agreed they were most excited to meet Miss South Dakota USA Jessica Albers, and that seeing Yankton Mayor Nancy Wenande was a treat, too.

April Hansen has four children who attend Beadle School. She was one of the volunteers to ask questions.

"It's for a good cause, and I wanted to help the school out," she said. "I've also been helping my kids learn the answers to the questions, so I wanted to be involved."

Some of the questions are difficult, and Hansen said she has been impressed by what a motivation the challenge was for her own children to learn.

'They've had to study hard to know the answers, but they've been having fun with it," she stated.

Anderson said there was no fundraising goal for the day.

"If we get a couple thousand dollars out of it, I'm going to be as pleased as can be," she said. "It's not the financial aspect of it that is the most important to any of us here at Beadle. It's the community coming in and seeing our kids, as well as our kids understanding the aspect of working toward a goal."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInland-Voyage

'Raiders Of The Lost Ark' Package Mystery Solved

CHICAGO (AP) — The University of Chicago has determined the source of a mystery package that the school received addressed to movie adventurer Indiana Jones.

The school received a replica of the journal from the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" that was addressed to Henry Walton Jones, Jr. - better known as Indiana Jones.

The Chicago Tribune's Red Eye reports that the wrapped journal had fallen out of a separate package on its way from Guam.

An eBay seller in Guam was sending the journal to the highest bidder in Italy.

The U.S. Postal Service apparently sent the smaller package on for delivery to Chicago.

