

Kite and Leaf...

The good news
email from TCS!

Publishing Students' Written Work: Another Way We Honor the Voices of Children

The reason progressive education is so engaging is that it makes learning relevant to children's interests. Part of that relevancy is creating a culture that lets children *know* we *value* what they think, what they're curious about, and what they create with their imaginations.

That's why The Children's School honors children's writing through regular sharing of stories and essays in the classroom, and also through publishing their works so that their writing can be shared with the broader school community and the world.



Our publishing traditions show a child in a very tangible way that their voice is important. This makes writing relevant and rewarding instead of a chore. It also creates confident writers who can communicate well, since they are experienced at organizing and presenting their thoughts and receiving and processing feedback on their writing in constructive ways.

Here are examples of the TCS publishing culture and how we celebrate our students' written words:

Writing and Sharing Reflections as We Learn

In all classes, from kindergarten through middle school, our classroom teachers set aside time for reflection.

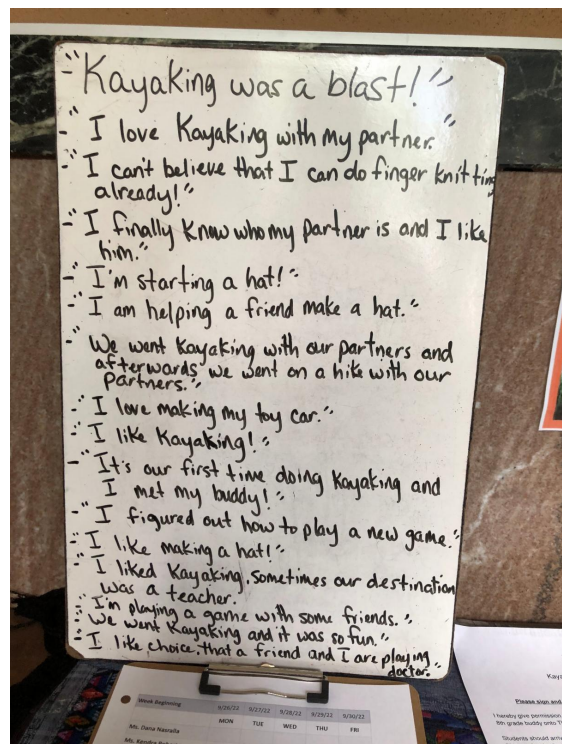
Students might be asked to look back on their day's activities, their project work, or a field trip, and write down their thoughts and feelings about it. They might note what they learned, what was hard, what was funny, or what they might do differently the next time. They might use their reflections as a background for a creative story, or even a new project!



Reflections allow students to make sense of their experience in relation to themselves and others. Often, these reflections are shared with the class. Sharing develops not only writing and presentation skills, but deepens their awareness that others experience things differently or have different interests and perspectives.

Through sharing reflections, the class learns to respect and appreciate each other's different perspectives and also the commonalities they share.

If you are a Pond (K, 1st, and 2nd grade) parent/guardian, you may be familiar with the "Daily Suitcase" — a whiteboard listing each student's brief reflection about their day. We ask younger children to remember what they did that day - what stood out for them. In addition to building writing, sharing, and speaking skills through our daily suitcase, another great benefit parents discover is that it helps children engage in more detailed and interesting conversations at home about what they did at school each day!



Our End-of Year Publishing Party Tradition

A cherished TCS tradition is our classroom publishing parties on the last day of school. All families are invited to their child's classroom for the event.



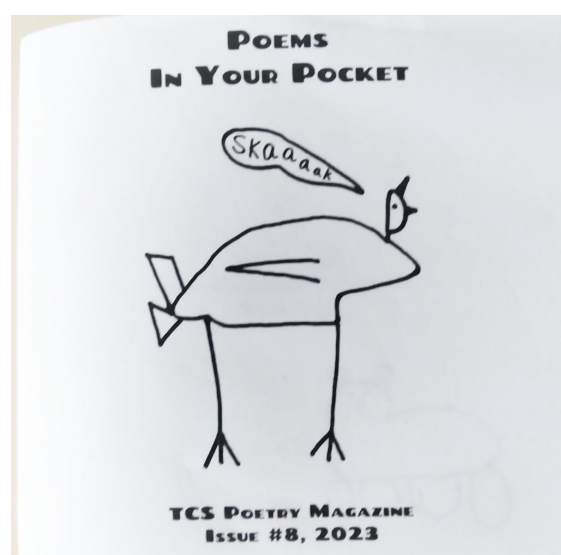
In grades K-5, each student chooses their favorite story from among their own written work during the year and works to refine the text. They then create a hardcover version with a title page, dedication, and illustrations. Older students also choose a significant piece of writing to polish and present during the publishing party.

At the publishing party, each student reads a portion of their work for an audience of both their peers and their families, offering a chance to celebrate and practice their presentation skills. Publishing parties are another way we foster children's self-identification as writers. It's a great way to end our school year.

"Poems In Your Pocket" - Poetry Zine

Our TCS librarian, Ms. Polly Smith, collects student submissions for the annual school poetry zine, *Poems in Your Pocket*. The students themselves chose the name, and contribute cover and interior art in addition to the poems. The pocket-sized zine measures 4"x 5.5". This year's magazine is the 8th issue.

Below are a few of the poems featured this year. We've included authors' grades but omitted their names.



The Love

Let the love go through your heart.
When you feel the love get to your heart
You will feel like all the animals in the world.

I like to go to New York.
It's as high as the sky and deep as a swamp.
There's nothing funner than a road trip
to Grandma's and Grandpa's.
We say hi.

Kindergarten

Bigfoot

Bigfoot is said to be smelly,
I wonder if he has a potbelly.
Trekking through the forest,
he leaves branches snapped and broken.
Striding on, confident, steady, paced, ready.
He resides in these woods, happy, content.
He is well known in the outside world,
but he prefers his life quiet and calm,
as he hunts, sleeps, lives,
Bigfoot is said to be smelly,
I wonder if he has a potbelly.

5th grade

We see the horses.

We climb the hay bales in the summer.
We go down to the swamp in the winter.
In the spring we swim in the swamp.
In the fall we make the leaf piles.

2nd grade

I open my eyes,
yellow shouts at me,
demanding attention.
I turn over in my bed,
but am repelled by the bright color.
Yellow is happy.
I don't always want to be happy.

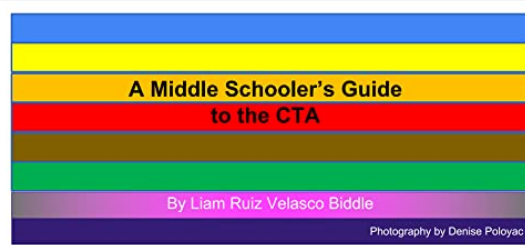
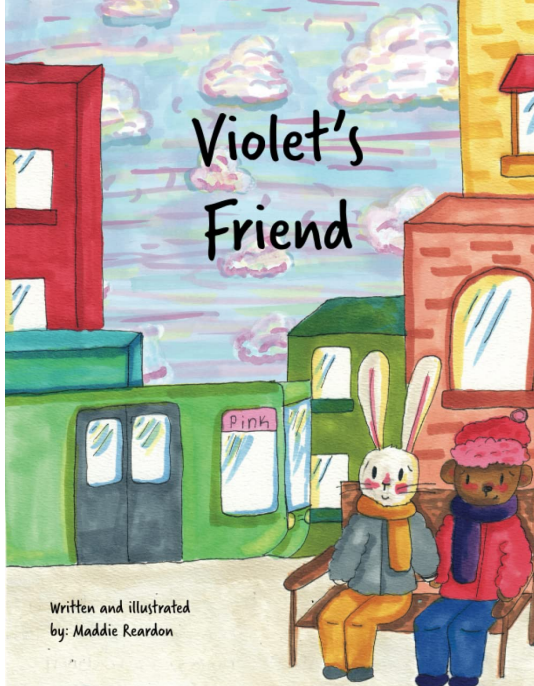
6th Grade

[Learn more about poetry writing at TCS](#)

Capstone Projects: Sharing with the Wider Community — and Now the World!

Each year, our 8th-grade students complete a major independent project on a topic of their own choosing. Working with their teacher, Ms. Mitchell, and an adult advisor, each student plans and creates a final product that may take the shape of an event, a documentary, a website, an essay, or even a published book! Creating a shareable final product, along with a written document that describes the steps they took throughout their Capstone research and execution, allows them to present their work to both their peers and the entire school community.

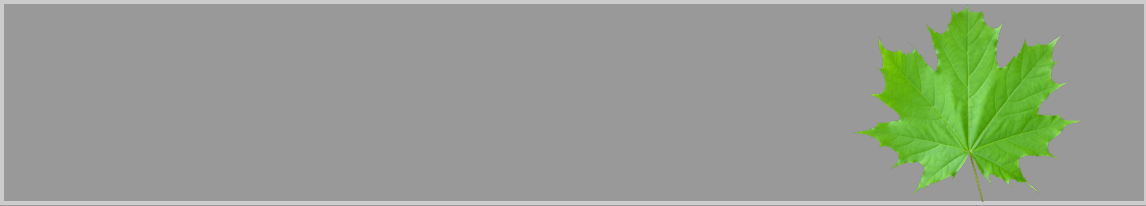
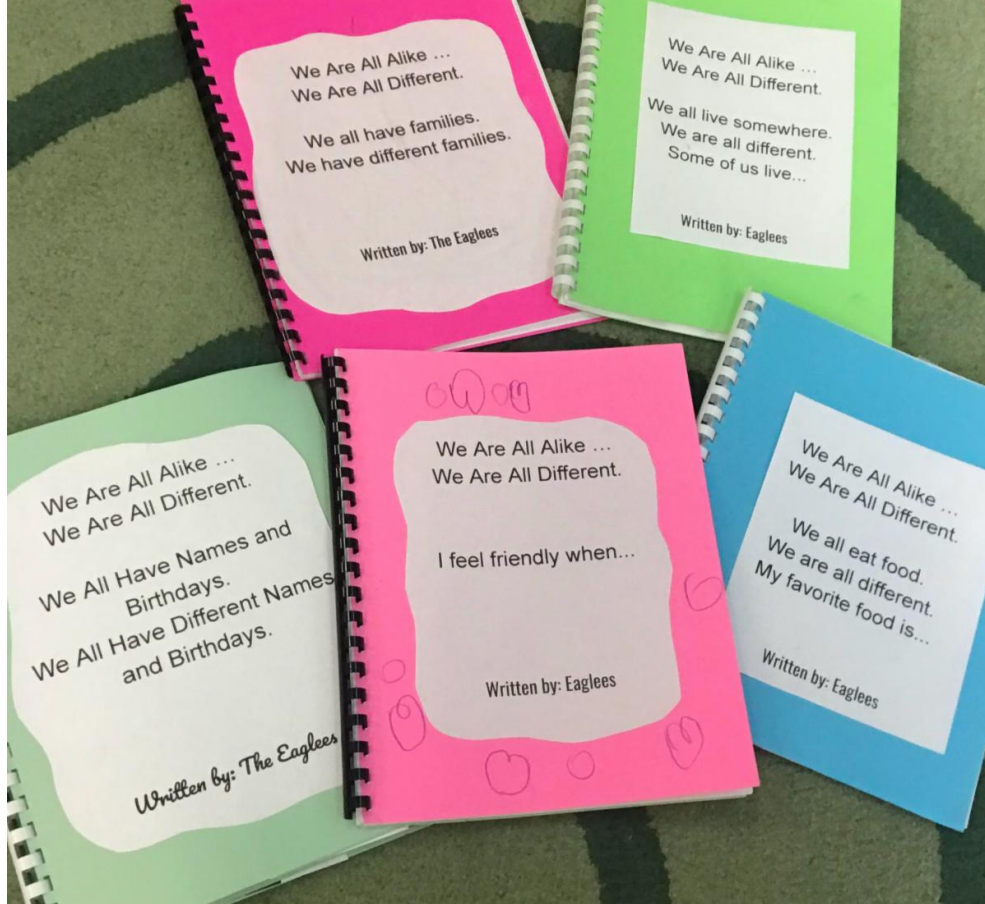
Our TCS publishing culture took a big leap forward this year, with several 8th graders publishing their e-books on Amazon. We're proud that our students had the confidence and resourcefulness to find a way of sharing their work with the entire world, bringing their own voice to other young readers. Here are TCS student works that you can purchase or learn more about on Amazon.com by clicking the cover photos below:



Venues for our Middle Level students to share their voices include digital productions (videos, documentaries, social network campaigns, and websites), requiring not only writing, planning, and organization, but also technology skills. Students develop a broad array of writing and communication skills as they figure out how to best bring their topic to its intended audience.

Creative Confident Collaborators!

All of the skills nurtured through our publishing culture contribute to the skills students will need to thrive as lifelong learners. As they grow older, their communication skills, their ability to reflect on and refine their work product, their ability to plan and execute a written or digital media project to be shared with others, and their ability to collaborate with peers, mentors, teachers, and experts to produce their work are all so-called "soft" skills that will serve them well in life on whatever path they choose for the future.



The Children's School | 200 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302-3202

Unsubscribe_pfreese@thechildrensschool.info

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by tylitsey@thechildrensschool.info powered by



Try email marketing for free today!