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## Children's author visits elementary schools in Ken-Ton District



Edison Elementary School librarian Gretchen Seibert, left, is with children's author and poet Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, who recently visited the school.

Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, a resident of [Holland](#) and children's author, poet and writing teacher, recently visited two elementary schools in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District to share with students a love of poetry, writing and nature.

VanDerwater visited Lindbergh and Edison elementary schools to read some of her poetry and share creative writing techniques during interactive sessions with individual grade levels. She has also visited many other elementary schools, including Franklin and Holmes elementary schools.

In 2014, VanDerwater received the 2014 Golden Kite Picture Book Text

Honor and the 2013 Cybils Award for Poetry for her celebrated children's book "Forest Has a Song," a collection of poems published through Clarion Books. "Forest Has a Song" includes 26 poems inspired by a girl's walk through a forest and is ideal for introducing young readers to poetry.

As a teacher, VanDerwater was also the recipient of the Golden Apple Award from WROC Channel 8 News in [Rochester](#).

VanDerwater has five forthcoming children's books and has published many poems, articles and lessons, both in print and through her blogs, "The Poem Farm" and "Sharing Our Notebooks," which can be found on her website at [www.amyludwigvanderwater.com](http://www.amyludwigvanderwater.com).

Students at [Edison Elementary School](#) prepared for her visit by creating art and poetry inspired by "Forest Has a Song."

VanDerwater used objects she had found in nature as well as her books, photographs and puppets to inspire students to pay attention to the extraordinary things that could be observed in everyday activities.

In conjunction with a national initiative, "Authors for Earth Day," \$750 was donated to the Messinger Woods Wildlife Care & Education Center in [Orchard Park](#), and \$250 was donated to the Buffalo Museum of Science's Tiff Nature Preserve.

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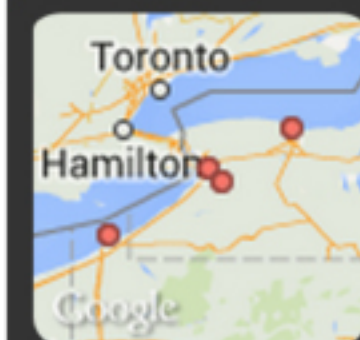


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