



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 7, 2006

## Aspiring writers attend Written Word Festival

More than one hundred aspiring writers from across the District School Board of Niagara will be attending the Written Word Festival at Governor Simcoe Secondary School on Thursday, November 16. Students submitted portfolios of work to be selected to attend the full day workshop.

“The Written Word Festival is a unique opportunity for students to meet face to face in small groups with writers in various genres across Canada,” explains Ann Gilmore, DSBN English Consultant. “It’s no secret that writing is lonely work, and often discouraging. By sharing their enthusiasm for the craft of writing with artists who have made it in the world of publishing, we hope to inspire our students. We hope that participants come away with a deeper understanding of why writing matters, and how they can pursue their literary dreams.”

The day includes a series of small workshops lead by guest speakers who work in the field of writing. Then students are brought together to share some of their own written pieces.

The Written Word Festival kicks-off at 9:15am with a performance from lyricist Rob Lamothe and keynote speaker, Mike Leslie, the founder, editor and publisher of WhatIf? Magazine. WhatIf? Magazine is a Canadian publication whose goal is to help young writers and illustrators get published alongside more experienced poets, writers, and artists, in a quality literary setting. Students then attend workshops by such notable writers as journalists Grant LaFleche and Don Fraser, poet Catherine Owen, lyricist Rob Lamothe, mystery novelist Barbara Kyle, playwright Catherine Hernandez, and screenwriter John Patus.

### Schedule

9:15-10:10	Performance & Keynote Speaker			
10:20-11:15	Workshop A			
	Author - fiction	Theatre 1	Author - mystery	Theatre 2
	Magazine Publisher	141 D	Screenwriter	141 C
	Playwright	Theatre Classroom	Poet	Library
	Journalist	141 E	Songwriter	Music Room

11:25 -12:00	Student Readings	
12:40 - 1:35	Workshop B	Locations as above
1:40 - 2:00	Student Readings	

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