



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **District School Board of Niagara Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Student Conference**

Canadian author Andy Spearman and world renowned magician Greg Frewin, headline the DSBN Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Student Conference. The conference brings together more than 300 students in Grades 5 and 6 from across the District School Board of Niagara for an exciting day of literary events.

Junior students in the District School Board of Niagara have, for many years, participated in the Ontario Library Association's Silver Birch Reading Program. The Conference is the culminating event for students who have participated in the OLA Silver Birch Reading Program in their home schools. The goals of the Program are to encourage and promote reading for pleasure with children ages 8 to 11; promote and bring forward an excellent selection of recent Canadian books to the attention of children and to encourage Canadian writing, Canadian authors and the improvement of reading skills.

The day will include a keynote address from Andy Spearman, who is a graduate of Princess Margaret Elementary School, and whose book 'Barry, Boyhound' has been nominated for this year's Silver Birch Award. Greg Frewin's performance connects to another nominated book: 'Prepare to Be Amazed'. In addition, students will participate in book talks, book signings, a trivia challenge, and 16 book-related workshops that range from Dragon Lore to Drumming; Food Grossology to Fundamentals of Forensics; Palaeontology to Percussion and Building Birdhouses to Brock Hockey. Workshop presenters include community volunteers, field professionals, and DSBN staff.

According to student participants from last year's Conference; "I really loved the activities and people I met. Everything was very fun!" and "I really loved how you got famous people to come and talk about the book they wrote". And teachers that attended 2006's Conference said "This was one of the best student participation events I have attended in my career." and "The conference was beyond my expectations (Level 4+)".

The DSBN Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Student Conference takes place on Thursday, May 3, from 9am to 2:30pm at the Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls.

## Conference Schedule:

- 9:00 a.m.** Arrival - Registration, Introductions
- 9:30 a.m.** Keynote address: Andy Spearman, author of Barry Boyhound
- 10:30 a.m.** Break - Snack, Voting
- 10:45 a.m.** Book-Related Workshop 1
- 11:30 a.m.** Lunch - Author Signings, Book Sales
- 12:15 p.m.** "Prepare to be Amazed" Magic Show by Greg Frewin
- 1:00 p.m.** Book Related Workshop 2
- 1:45 p.m.** Final Trivia Challenge
- 2:15 p.m.** Closing - announce DSBN Book Winners, trivia awards, thank-yous

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