

STEP 5: Setup

The guest must be contacted a few weeks before the scheduled visit to verify last-minute details, such as the need for special equipment (a laptop, for example, a microphone, or to request student assistants). A student representative should also be chosen in advance to thank the guest officially after the presentation.

STEP 6: Follow-Up

Just as important as any of the other steps in the planning process, the library guest should be sent a thank-you letter written by the teacher-librarian, students, or principal. Guests also appreciate receiving copies of photos to keep as a record of the event. Students and teachers should be encouraged to reflect on the visit and share responses with the teacher-librarian. Feedback can be included in the library monthly report. Don't forget to submit an article highlighting your guest visit in the parent's monthly newsletter.

Here is a list of some exceptional guests invited to school libraries.

Medieval Man at Arms—Peter Hurley
Anna Farquhar, teacher-librarian at Southwood Park P.S., Durham Board writes,
“Peter Hurley makes history come to life when he comes in, dressed in armour. He spends some time explaining what life was like during this time in history and then students are encouraged to handle a variety of weapons and armour he brings in with him. My Grade four classes enjoyed learning about the life and times of medieval people, but mostly they really enjoyed handling the weapons and shields. Mr. Hurley will be returning to our school as a Roman Centurion later in May.”

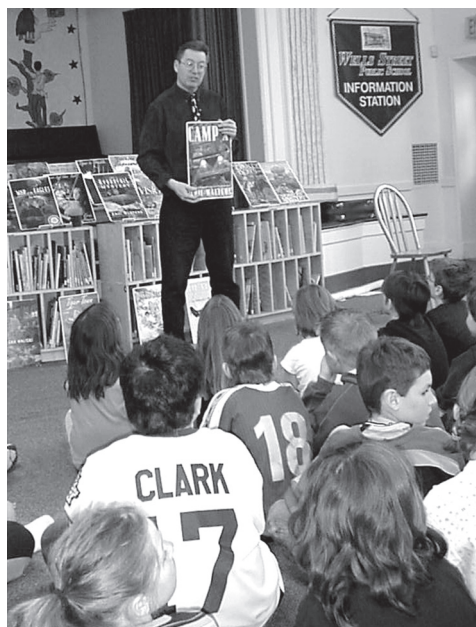
Authors—Michael Wade, Mireille Messier, Eric

Walters, Shane Peacock.

Coleen Power, teacher-librarian at R. H. Cornish P.S., Port Perry writes,
“Michael Wade, author of the series ‘And Then It Happened,’ is an excellent author for both boys and girls in Grades 3–6. His presentation was really engaging, and he made a killing selling his books after the presentation. Each chapter relates funny pranks children can relate to.”

Musician—Mike Ford

Mike Ford is a composer-songwriter who teaches Canadian History through song. He highlighted the fact that there are many points of view on historical events, just like there are many styles of songs. He grabbed the students' attention with Stompin' Tom Connor's (www.stompintom.com/) version of *The Good Old Hockey Game* and proceeded to sing us songs about Jacques Cartier, the fur trade, and Nova Scotia's Oak Island. He's hilarious and junior and intermediate students will love him. ■



Eric Walter's discussing his novel Camp X with junior students at Wells Street Public School, York Region District School Board