Author brings tales of determination to Wattles Park

Executive Editor Little Dandelion Seeds the and illustrating exercise.

World and Let's Build a Little "These kids in this class-World and Let's Build a Little Train children's book author Julia Richardson of Mattawan introduced kindergarteners and first graders Friday to the world of an author when she visited Wattles Park Elementary School.

That world, as the students learned, starts with persever-

nurse, didn't get her first book meeting in Kalamazoo. published by Sleeping Bear Press until she had been trying for five years to find a publisher.

Richardson, 56, also talked thanks to the help of her elementary school's "special teacher" who worked one-onone with her to learn how to write letters that weren't upside down and backward.

Following her presentation, that included a short mario-

S S S S S S S S S \$200 - \$10,000 **BUY All Cars & Trucks** Call Me First! I Pay More! 269-223-3588

nette show, Richardson led the youngsters in a writing

room, they were awesome," said Richardson in the room of first grade teacher, Tina Semora. "These teachers are doing something right."

Her visit was arranged by Wattles Park classroom assistant and parent, Holly Cinzori of the Parent-Teacher Association, who met In fact, Richardson, a retired Richardson at a writing group

"They're working on writing their own stories and Wattles Park really emphasizes creating your own stories." said Cinzori, "drawing a picabout overcoming dyslexia ture and writing sentences, putting words together. I think this is fantastic."

Richardson talked to the children about how she became inspired to become a writer as an adult and to persevere through repeated rejection notices from publishing houses

"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground," she said while holding an acorn. "So some day, this could be a huge tree. So when my doubts made feel

269.967.8241 Digital TV Antennas

Wireless Data Links * Towers

Cellular Enhancement Systems

///SureCall

like giving up, I thought about the acorn and the miracle that lives inside of it. The acorn doesn't give up. It waits for the right conditions and then it sprouts and grows into a huge tree. If this nut could do it, so can this big nut.'

So, she kept writing and trying to get her stories published for five years during which time she received 150 rejection letters.

'I received an email about one of my stories that had been rejected 12 times," she "I want you to think said. about that. Twelve times, I was told, 'No thank you, no thank you.

"And what did I do? I turned around and sent it in to somebody else and then I got this email from Sleeping Bear Press, which is a company that makes books," she continued, "The email said, 'We had a meeting last week and decided to move forward with Little Dandelion, Everyone LOVED the story and love was in all capital letters.

"All those times, it was rejected but somebody else loved it. So, I was so excited when I read that, I leaped out of my chair and I raced through my house, my little dog was following, she didn't know what was going on. I was screaming, 'I did it! I did it! I'm a children's book author!"

Getting published, she said, is remarkable to her due to her dyslexia.

"The fact that I'm an author is a miracle, because when I was your age," she said, "I was the worst writer in my

CASH PRICE

\$22,995.00

S300.21

per month*

*84 months

@ 2.49% fixed

Children's book author Julia Richardson of Mattawan reads from her book, Little Dandelion Seeds the World from Sleeping Bear Press, to kindergarten and first graders Friday at Wattles Park Elementary School in Battle Creek. (Shopper News photo by Shelly Kehrle-Sulser)

class and I was in the lowest the works reading group.'

She held up a sheet of paper bearing her name, upside down and backward.

"It looks like an alien wrote it," she said. "But this is how I used to write. I remember again, that she wasn't pubmy teacher standing over my desk, looking at my paper and asking, what does that say? And I said, 'It's my name, Julia.' And then I waited for her praise and instead she said, 'Hmmm. Keep on practicing.' I could tell by the expression on her face I was doing it wrong. And then one day, she had an idea. She held my paper up in front of a mirror and it looked like this.

Then, she turned it around. "I was writing every letter upside down and backward. Not on purpose," she said, "that's just how my brain told me to do it."

Richardson said she learned that she was interested in writing children's stories when she was around the age of 13 when she began making marionette puppets out of clay and string and putting on her original plays with her siblings for their younger cousins.

"When I was old. Really old - 50 years old, I heard someone say, 'Do what you love, the rest will come to you," she said. "I tossed and turned. I couldn't sleep because I knew what I loved. I love writing stories for children. But how could I be an author? I was the alien writer but just before I fell asleep, I heard a little voice behind my ear whisper, 'all you have to do is

try.'
"I never thought of that before," she said. "So the next morning, I woke up determined, and five years later, after a lot of hard work and learning, I had my first book published."

Richardson said her first book, Little Dandelion Seeds the World, was published in March of 2021 and since then, her second book, Let's Build a Little Train, was published in September of 2022.

She now has a third book in

"I think it was a wonderful presentation," said first grade teacher, Tina Semora. "She talked about how the books developed and came to be. She talked a lot about try, try lished right away and to

never give up and that was a great message for the kids and she was able to share the book and do some interactive activities with the kids and I think they all enjoyed it."

For Sale

GOOD USED TIRES 269-

AN AMISH LOG HEAD-BOARD and Queen Pillow Top Mattress Set. Brand new-never used, sell all for \$375. Call anytime 989-923-1278.

FOR SALF: TROY Built 24inch self propelled snow blower, forward and reverse, electric start. Like new 269-963-5328

2 PLACE SNOWMOBILE TRAILER with 21in sides, \$500 obo. 269-425-9118, Call after 2pm.

AMISH LOG BEDS Dressers, Rustic Table and Chairs, Mattresses for Cabin or Home. Lowest price in Michigan! dandanthemattressman.com 989-923-1278

BUYING ALL UNWANTED vehicles- Paying top dollar daily. Fast and friendly pickup. Call or text 269-580-0549

4 2011 CHEVY Aluminum rims, 18 inch. \$150.00. Compound bow, left handed, case

ADJUSTABLE BED BRAND new with mattress. Made in the U.S.A., in plastic, with warranty. Retail cost \$3,995.00.

sacrifice for \$875.00. Call for

showing or delivery: Dan-DanTheMatressMan.com 989-

615-2951. TRAIN SET FOR CHRIST-MAS? Double engine Lionel with 6 cars, table, houses and transformer to run it, \$650. Cost \$1,200 brand new. Call 269-963-5176

FOR SALE: 5 TIRES 35X12.5X17 \$1200.00. Concept 2 rowing machine \$300.00. 575-519-9181

VIAGRA AND CIALIS US-ERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00, 100% guaranteed. \$99.00, 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-835-7273 Hablamos Espanol.

MobileHelp, America's Premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936.



KUBOTA L2501HST w/ AG TIRES & LA526 QA LOADER

- · 24.8hp Kubota 3 cyl Diesel
- · 3 Range Hydrostatic Transmission • 4WD
- · Power Steering
- CAT I 3pt Hitch 540 Rear PTO
- Live PTO and Hydraulics
- Position Control for 3pt · AG industrial tires
- · Loaded rear tires w/ Rimquard
- Front grill guard included
- LA526 Front Loader –66"QA bucket

1 YEAR EXTENDED LOADER WARRANTY FOR 3 YEAR TOTAL LOADER WARRANTY

0.00% Down, 2.49% A.P.R. financing for up to 84 months on purchases of select new Kubota L2501HST tractor an LAS26 equipment from participating dealers' in stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Cred Corporation, U. S.4, subject to credit approval. Example: 84 monthly payments of \$12.99 per \$1,000 financed. Som exceptions apply. Terms subject to change. Offers expire 12/31/22. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubot disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For mor information, see Dealer or go to KubotatUSA.com.

KUBOTA KINGS-KINGS EQUIPMENT GROUP, INC. 826 E. Chicago St., Coldwater, MI 49036 • (517) 279-8002 Hours: M-F 8-5 · Closed Sat & Sun "Reacing is with approved credit. Some exemptions apply, See dealer for details. "Consumer warranty



