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Mission

As Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in communion with the Bishop of Rome, we are called by our Lord Jesus Christ to be His Church and live His Gospel. With joy, we strive to fulfill our Baptismal calling by prayer and worship, teaching and sharing our faith, serving others, and fostering unity in diversity. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to the responsible stewardship of all God's gifts.

Best-Selling Author Ridley Pearson Visits St. James the Greater School

Best-selling author Ridley Pearson made a visit to St. James the Greater School in Dogtown on January 19. His works include 37 books, one of which is the #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer*. Mr. Pearson has also co-authored (along with Dave Barry) a series of novels that explain the beginnings of Peter Pan. The first novel in this series, *Peter and the Star Catchers*, spent 47 weeks on the *New York Times* Children's Bestseller List.

During his visit, Mr. Pearson conducted a highly interactive and entertaining writing workshop with fifth through eighth grade students. He demonstrated to the students that much of the work in writing involves "re-writing". "I can write a book fairly quickly," he said. "But, it's never very good the first time around. Most of my time is spent re-writing what I have already written and getting it just right." He also encouraged the students to use descriptive language. Students wrote four or five sentences describing the face of a well-known celebrity. Mr. Pearson read some of these sentences aloud, and the students had to name the celebrity based on the description alone. "They did a good job!" he said.



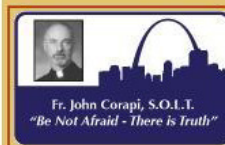
Novelist Ridley Pearson with students from St. James the Greater School. The students are holding signed copies of Mr. Pearson's latest books.

In preparation for his visit, St. James students read two Ridley Pearson novels for young adults – *The Kingdom Keepers* and *Steel Trapp*. Students discussed the content of these books with the author during a question and answer session. At the conclusion of the event, Mr. Pearson signed each child's book.

Fifth grade student Amanda Isom exclaimed, "It was so much fun! I loved it. I had already read both Kingdom Keeper books and loved them. I can't believe I just met the author!" Language Arts Coordinator Linda Colvis added, "The students were really engaged throughout the entire workshop. Ridley Pearson kept the course light-hearted and fun. He also did a fabulous job emphasizing the writing process and reiterating what we teachers tell our students daily – the best products are created after they've been written, re-written, and written again."



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