

KBF School Days brings children's author to Covington

Author Will Hillenbrand visits Latonia Elementary School

COVINGTON, Ky. (November 12, 2019) – Latonia Elementary School will host author Will Hillenbrand on Thursday, November 14. The visit is part of Kentucky Humanities' statewide KBF School Days program, a student outreach program of the Kentucky Book Festival. The 2019 KBF School Days program features eight children's and young adult authors visiting 23 elementary and middle schools throughout the Commonwealth, reaching more than 2,400 students.

Will Hillenbrand grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, where his family owned a barbershop. Each summer he would walk to the shop and deliver his Dad's hot lunch. Then he would take a break and listen to the conversations. Many customers told "big fish" stories laced with humor and exaggeration. Hillenbrand enjoyed drawing those stories at the kitchen table when he returned home. Later he went to art school, and after taking a class in picture book art, he decided to try illustrating children's literature. After more than 70 books, he still feels lucky to do what he loves.

More than 100 Latonia Elementary 1st and 2nd graders will participate in the program. Thanks to generous grants from the Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation and the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, along with support from the Kosair Charities Face It[®] Movement, each student will receive a copy of *What a Treasure* and will have their book signed by Hillenbrand.

"KBF School Days is one of my favorite programs that Kentucky Humanities sponsors," said Bill Goodman, Kentucky Humanities Executive Director.

“Giving Kentucky students the opportunity to interact with an author and to share in the love of reading and writing is something we feel passionate about. Being able to gift each child with a book of their own has positive impacts lasting far beyond that one day. We are thankful to the Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and Kosair Charities for joining us in this memorable endeavor.”

“The Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation is pleased to play a role in the effort of the Kentucky Book Festival and Kentucky Humanities to provide access to reading materials to students in rural areas,” said Elsa Sule Foundation Trustee and CEO Ruth Klette. “The KBF School Days program offers a unique experience for readers to not only learn more about the importance of reading and writing, but to feel the true joy that comes from talking to an author one-on-one.”

KBF School Days is a student outreach program of the Kentucky Book Festival, taking place November 10-16 in Lexington. The Kentucky Book Festival would not be possible without sponsors, donors, and community partners. More information on the Festival, including a full list of sponsors, events, and authors can be found at <https://www.kyhumanities.org/programs/kentucky-book-festival>.

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