

Media Release

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Horizon Celebrates Literacy with Writer-In-Residence

Humboldt, SK – Horizon School Division is pleased to announce its partnership with acclaimed Canadian author, Sigmund Brouwer, who will serve as Horizon’s Writer-In-Residence for the 2015-2016 school year. This exciting partnership will promote middle-grade student engagement in reading and writing and help connect students and teachers with Canadian authors.

Sigmund will be visiting several Horizon Schools beginning in September. He spoke with teachers at their Collaborative Learning Day in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, on September 21, and will greet Horizon principals and vice-principals at their monthly administrator’s meeting on September 22. Mr. Brouwer will also be delivering presentations to all Horizon students in various schools for the remainder of the week.

“We are very proud to offer this opportunity for our students and staff,” says Horizon’s Director of Education, Kevin Garinger. “Sigmund’s passion for literacy is undeniable, and to have him share that passion with our students is a real privilege. I would like to thank Mr. Brouwer for his partnership in this important work.”

Horizon’s Writer-In-Residence program is part of the division’s commitment to improved literacy for all students. “Horizon is focused on literacy as a foundational skill, essential to all future learning,” says Mr. Garinger. “By engaging in this partnership with a well-known author such as Mr. Brouwer, we are providing a first-hand experience for our students to learn about writing and excite their love of reading. Research shows that reading skills improve with practice. Just as weightlifters become stronger the more they lift, learners become stronger the more they read.”

“Although I’m very excited about this opportunity, this is way more than me being delighted and honoured to be the Writer-In-Residence,” says Sigmund Brouwer. “I think it sends a great message to the community that the school board, communities and teachers are focused on literacy as a way to help our children achieve great things. This is a unique project and kudos to Horizon for using this as a way to reach children, along with all the other resources teachers use in the classroom.”



Mr. Brouwer is the bestselling author of nearly thirty novels, including the *Justine McKeen* series and *Timberwolf* series of children’s books and the *Orca Sports* series for young adults. He has received several awards for his work, including the Arthur Ellis Best Y/A Mystery 2015 Award for his novel, *Dead Man’s Switch*, and the Book of the Year Christy Award 2015 for *Thief of Glory*. In addition to his in-person visits and presentations to schools, Mr. Brouwer will be delivering bi-weekly video messages to schools across Horizon, fielding student questions and much more. For more on Sigmund Brouwer, including information on his *Rock and Roll Literacy* program, visit sigmundbrouwer.com.

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