



Monthly Newsletter

Youth Writing Camp

Join us for Teen Writing Camp and Youth Writing Camp! Camps are being held at MTSU June 4-8, 2018. Each camp limited to 20 participants. Register online: <https://www.middletnwritingproject.org/camp-info>

April 2018
Issue: 35

We Appreciate You!

MTWP would like to thank the following TCs and teachers for serving as adjudicators of the 2018 Scholastic Writing Awards this past winter: Lori Bratten-DiCiaula, Jennifer Hacker, Joe Hardin, Steve Jones, Sondra Smith, Leslie Trail, Sarah Svarda, Sarah Morris, Sarah Esberger, Laura Lynn Roland, Vanessa Sweeney, Steve Boynton, and Deborah Smith. Thanks to their hardwork, MTWP earned \$1600 to help pay for the Invitational Summer Institute. And a big thank you to Sarah Morris and Sarah Esberger for organizing this initiative. If you are interested in participating next year, please send your contact info to Sarah Morris @ morrissa@rcschools.net.

Dreaming and Writing BIG at McDowell Elementary

By T.C. Regina Peery, Ed.S. Kindergarten
Teacher McDowell Elementary

Providing opportunities for students to share their AUTHENTIC writing, voices, and illustrations is powerful. Sometimes, those opportunities can be found in the stories and lives of former students. Shaq Mason was a former student at McDowell Elementary. Now, he plays football for the New England Patriots. He played in his second consecutive Super Bowl this year. I focused one of my writing workshop lessons on Shaq Mason the week of the Super Bowl.

My plan was for them to write one informational piece about him with an illustration. After the lesson, the students wanted to continue learning and writing about him. They wanted to write more and make a book.



Stay up to date!

Every student individually wrote and drew pictures for their own book, 'All About Shaq.' The students read their books to pre-kindergarten students at the end of the week. Our local paper wanted to do an article on their writing. The students were amazed to see their pictures and writing on the front page of the paper. One of my students said, "Wow! We are famous authors!"

I wanted my students to learn about Shaq because of his character on and off the field. He is a role model for our students. His success shows our students can dream big and achieve it. They are already amazing authors.



- **TC KC Hopkins has been offered a 5 year publishing contract on a novel and has been asked to turn it into a series!**
- **Check out this high school teacher's method for meeting with every student for 5 minutes about his/her writing project:**

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-minute-writingconferences>

Upcoming Events

**June 4-8, 2018: Youth Writer's Camps*

**June 7, 2018: ELL Open Institute
(sign up at middletnwritingproject.org)*

**September 15, 2018: Fall Conference*