

Lexington-Bluegrass Association of REALTORS® brings Enemy Pie illustrator to Dixie Elementary

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Children's book illustrator, Tara Calahan King, with Students at Dixie Elementary Magnet in Lexington.

On March 16, REALTORS® representing the Lexington-Bluegrass Association of REALTORS® (LBAR) welcomed **Tara Calahan King**, illustrator of many popular children's books, to Dixie Elementary Magnet School.

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Second graders at Dixie experienced a new form of art in their school library. King brought *Enemy Pie* to life in many ways during her visit. She began by reading *Enemy Pie* to Mr. Gray's class. King then explained the stages of character development based on the author's manuscript as well as the stages of illustration, printing and binding.

"Thirteen years ago I began visiting schools, and I have children and teachers still telling me that I really added something to their life," King said, "I think that drawing is important for children who can't express themselves in other ways."

Further showing that we all have the ability to illustrate our own stories, King developed a character with the children. To create the character she asked them for suggestions of expression, description, props and location, and in just a few minutes the students had a character to call their own whom they named "Captain S.P."

The library at Dixie received a copy of *Enemy Pie* by award-winning author Derek Munson. In its second year, **Melissa Poynter**, the chair of the LBAR Community Education Task Force, has continued to lead the Realtors' outreach project.

This contribution to Dixie Elementary Magnet school is part of a larger donation to 110 elementary public and private schools in LBAR's eleven county market area. The project is part of LBAR's ongoing goal to become involved with the area's school systems in innovative ways that will positively shape the future of our communities' children.

When asked what her first reaction was to being invited to participate in this project, King said she was "surprised and very honored."

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