

ASK: Author, Specialist, Knowledge

Twice partners with various ISDs around Michigan to bring ASK Author videoconferences. ASK ("Authors Specialist and Knowledge") is an organized process that provides students with the opportunity to interview an author or a subject specialist in the topic they are reading about in a novel. The program uses excellent literature, journal writing and interviewing to promote reading for understanding.

Cost: \$40 for Twice Members. The MISD will pay for your participation in these programs as long as you honor the cancellation procedures listed below. The MISD will also supply the books and materials needed to participate in these programs. Please note any restrictions found in the book descriptions.

Cancellation Procedures: For a full refund, cancellations must be submitted **5 weeks** (25 business days) ahead of time. Programs cancelled less than 5 weeks before the date of the program will still be billed for the full cost. If you cancel after the 5 week deadline your school will be billed the \$40 fee.

Waiting List. If a program you want is full, please register & note waiting list. Sometimes schools cancel and we'd like to have the sessions full if possible.

Questions? Contact this year's ASK coordinator, Janine Lim at janine.lim@berrienresa.org or (269) 471-7725x1101.

Letters: If you want to follow-up the ASK process with letters to the author/specialist, send them to Janine Lim, Berrien RESA, 711 St. Joseph Ave., Berrien Springs, MI, 49103. We'll get them in the mail to the right person.

Test Calls: Please note who is doing the bridging for your session - see the Partners section for that program below.

2009-2010 Schedule

Registration for 2009-2010 is within [CAPspace](#) and you'll need [verified equipment](#) to register. Registration opens September 9.

November 4 ASK Author: *Belinda Begins Ballet* with author/illustrator

Amy Young Before Belinda was Belinda the Ballerina, before she was Belinda in Paris, and way before she was Belinda and the Glass Slipper, she was a little girl who wanted to dance. But there were two things standing in the way— her left foot and her right foot. Belinda's teacher, Mrs. Rhino, chooses Belinda to play the clown in a skit for the school talent show. Her feet are perfect for floppy clown shoes. But after seeing an older girl soar big across the stage as a ballerina, Belinda has other plans....

Partners: Hosting: Sue Porter. Bridging: [Saginaw ISD](#) (989.249.8723). Facilitator: Sue Porter & Amy Young. **Required Book:** Belinda Begins Ballet **Recommended Grade Level:** 1 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:00; 10:15-10:45; 11:00-11:30; 12:30-1:00 (3 classes per session)

November 16-19 ASK Author: *Clever Beatrice* with Margaret Willey A retold French Canadian folktale set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A feisty north woods girl bets her strength against the strength of a giant and wins every time. Illustrated by Heather Soloman. **Partners:** Hosting: Berrien RESA. Bridging & Facilitation: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). **Required Book:** Clever Beatrice **Recommended Grade Level:** 2-3 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session) (Nov 16 12:45 and 2:00; Nov 17 9:30 and 10:45; Nov 18 9:30 and 10:45; Nov. 19 9:30 and 10:45)

November 17-18 ASK Author: *Do Unto Otters* with author/illustrator Laurie Keller Do Unto Otters is a book of manners written and illustrated by Laurie Keller. Mr. Rabbit has new neighbors – the otters. This book delightfully explains how to be a good friend and neighbor. **Students will interview** the author/illustrator. **Partners:** Hosting: Sue Porter. Bridging: [Saginaw ISD](#) (989.249.8723). Facilitator: Sue Porter & Laurie Keller. **Required Book:** Do Unto Otters **Recommended Grade Level:** 1-2 **Times (EDT):** 9:00-9:45, 10:00-10:45, 11:00-11:45, 12:30-1:15 (3 classes per session) (**new 45 min time**)

November 24 ASK Specialist: *Night of the Twisters* with a NOAA meteorologist Night of the Twisters is based on the night that nine tornadoes struck Grand Island, Nebraska in 1990. This fictionalized account follows three children as they struggle to survive the tornadoes. It is a fast moving story that your students will enjoy. **Students will interview** a NOAA meteorologist. **Partners:** Hosting: Macomb ISD. Bridging & Facilitation: [Arnie Comer, Macomb ISD](#). **Required Book:** Night of the Twisters **Recommended Grade Level:** 4-7 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

December 1-2 ASK: *Traders in Time* with author Janie Panagopoulos Students love this tale of a canoe race on Lake Michigan, while teachers like the historical detail found in this story. Students will learn about fur trade and Native Americans in Michigan. This book is part of the dream quest series on Michigan History.

The MISD has 3 classroom sets of books available for Macomb county schools available for this program.

Partners: Hosting: Janie at home. Bridging: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). Facilitation: Janie Panagopoulos. **Required Book:** Traders in Time (All books may be purchased through Karis Distributing: klkaris@comcast.net) **Recommended Grade Level:** 3-4 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

December 3 ASK: *A Far Away Home: Orphan Train* with author Janie Panagopoulos

This story begins on the streets of New York City in 1854 where thousands of homeless children, immigrants, and natives are fighting to survive "just one more day". Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society, made a plan to rescue the children by getting them out of the city to loving rural homes in America's growing Midwest. The first location to accept these homeless children is Dowagiac, Michigan, a railroad whistle-stop on the track-line to Chicago. **Partners:** Hosting: Janie at home. Bridging: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). Facilitation: Janie Panagopoulos. **Required Book:** A Far Away Home: Orphan Train (All books may be purchased through Karis Distributing: klkaris@comcast.net) **Recommended Grade Level:** 4-5 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

December 4 ASK: *A Place Called Home* with author Janie Panagopoulos

NEW! During the American Revolution, the Campbell family watched friends and neighbors move across the Straits of Mackinac to a new island home on Mackinac Island, while they stayed behind to await word of the need for a lumber mill. "There's a land not far from here, once cleared by the hands of soldiers for firewood, where maple sugar runs and a fine, swift creek flows," states patriarch Robert Campbell. When permission comes from the British government to begin building the mill, preparations begin in earnest." **Partners:** Hosting: Janie at home. Bridging: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). Facilitation: Janie Panagopoulos. **Required Book:** A Place Called Home (All books may be purchased through Karis Distributing: klkaris@comcast.net) **Recommended Grade Level:** 3-4 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

December 10 ASK Author: *Winter's First Snowflake* with author Cheri

Hallwood NEW! A beautifully illustrated story that is sure to capture the imagination of young readers and the young-at-heart. Follow along, with the author's unique style of rhythm and rhyme, as the first snowflake of the season comes to life through the illustrator's magical

blend of soft pastels. Share in the anticipation as the North Wind carries this little snowflake on a whimsical and playful journey. This delightful tale is sure to become a keepsake for all ages and a seasonal treasure. **Partners:** Hosting, Bridging and Facilitation: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). **Required Book:** Winter's First Snowflake
Recommended Grade Level: 1-2 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:00; 10:15-10:45; 11:00-11:30; 12:30-1:00 (3 classes per session)

March 16-17 ASK Author: *Clever Beatrice* with Margaret Willey A retold French Canadian folktale set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A feisty north woods girl bets her strength against the strength of a giant and wins every time. Illustrated by Heather Soloman. **Partners:** Hosting: Berrien RESA. Bridging & Facilitation: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). **Required Book:** *Clever Beatrice* **Recommended Grade Level:** 2-3 **Times (EDT):** 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

March 18 ASK Author: *A Summer of Silk Moths* with Margaret Willey
NEW! Every summer Pete Shelton helps his friend Abe McMichaels build Riverside. This nature preserve is dedicated to the memory of Paul, Abe's long-dead brother who was a star in their small town. But one summer, everything changes. Seemingly out of nowhere, a tall, red-haired girl named Nora shows up with just the clothes on her back. A troubled runaway, she convincingly claims to be Abe's niece—Paul's daughter. Bad blood between Nora's mother and the McMichaels has kept Nora away from Riverside all her life, never knowing anything about her father. Although enemies at first, Nora and Pete slowly become allies in piecing together their shadowy pasts, ultimately discovering that their lives intertwine in a way they never could have imagined. **Partners:** Hosting: Berrien RESA. Bridging & Facilitation: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). **Required Book:** *A Summer of Silk Moths* (comes out fall 2009) **Recommended Grade Level: High School!!**
Times (EDT): 9:00-10:00 (3 classes per session)

March 18 ASK Author: *The 3 Bears and Goldilocks* with Margaret Willey
NEW! We all know that Goldilocks has a lot to say about the Three Bears. Everything they have is either too hot or too cold or too big or too lumpy or too hard or too soft or too completely, absolutely wrong. Only one of them can get anything right! Just right, that is. But have you ever wondered, even for the littlest mini-second, what the Three Bears think about her? Well, it turns out those bears have a thing or two, or three, to say... Margaret Willey turns this favorite classic upside down...because there's always another side to the story.... **Partners:** Hosting: Berrien RESA. Bridging & Facilitation: [Janine Lim, Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101).

Required Book: The 3 Bears and Goldilocks **Recommended Grade Level:** 1st grade **Times (EDT):** 10:15-10:45 and 11:00-11:30 (3 classes per session)

March 29-30 ASK Author: *Scrambled States* with author/illustrator Laurie Keller "One day, Kansas wakes up grumpy. The other 49 states are stretching, yawning, and pouring maple syrup onto each other's pancakes, but irritable Kansas announces to his kindly neighbor Nebraska that life is dull and changes must be made. Books that claim to "make geography fun" usually have to be taken with a dose of skepticism: so often, the teaching is there and the entertainment isn't. This delightfully quirky and original book shows how it should be done." --[Richard Farr](#) **Students will interview** the author/illustrator. **Partners:** Hosting: Sue Porter. Bridging: [Saginaw ISD](#) (989.249.8723). Facilitator: Sue Porter & Laurie Keller. **Required Book:** Scrambled States **Recommended Grade Level:** 3-4 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

April 27-28 ASK: *Journey Back to Lumberjack Camp* with author Janie Panagopoulos This dream-quest follows Gus McCarty from middle school back to the lumbering days of Michigan. This is a humorous tale of a young mans adventures with rough lumberjacks named Moonshine and Rat-hole Andy and life in a lumberjack camp. Students enjoy learning about life in the camps and the lumberjack vocabulary. The MISD has two sets of books available for this TWICE ASK program. **Partners:** Hosting: Janie at home. Bridging: [Janie Lim](#), [Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). Facilitation: Janie Panagopoulos. **Required Book:** Journey Back to Lumberjack Camp (All books may be purchased through Karis Distributing: klkaris@comcast.net) **Recommended Grade Level:** 3-4 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

April 29 ASK: *Train to Midnight* with author Janie Panagopoulos Students will learn about life along the Underground Railroad by reading about the adventures of Malaika and her brother Sammy. The story follows these two brave youngsters as they escape slavery with the help of a Quaker couple and Daniel. The book leads them through Detroit to the Second Baptist church on Monroe. **Partners:** Hosting: Janie at home. Bridging: [Janie Lim](#), [Berrien RESA](#) (269-471-7725x1101). Facilitation: Janie Panagopoulos. **Required Book:** Train to Midnight (All books may be purchased through Karis Distributing: klkaris@comcast.net) **Recommended Grade Level:** 3-5 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:30, 10:45-11:45, 12:45-1:45, 2:00-3:00 (3 classes per session)

May 4 ASK Author: *Belinda Begins Ballet* with author/illustrator Amy Young Before Belinda was Belinda the Ballerina, before she was Belinda in Paris, and way before she was Belinda and the Glass Slipper, she was a little girl who wanted to dance. But there were two things standing in the way— her left foot and her right foot. Belinda's teacher, Mrs. Rhino, chooses Belinda to play the clown in a skit for the school talent show. Her feet are perfect for floppy clown shoes. But after seeing an older girl soar big across the stage as a ballerina, Belinda has other plans.... **Partners:** Hosting: Sue Porter. Bridging: [Saginaw ISD](#) (989.249.8723). Facilitator: Sue Porter & Amy Young. **Required Book:** Belinda Begins Ballet **Recommended Grade Level:** 1 **Times (EDT):** 9:30-10:00; 10:15-10:45; 11:00-11:30; 12:30-1:00 (3 classes per session)