

FAMILY NIGHT WITH AUTHOR, DEBORAH CHOCOLATE

Scott School
Naperville, Illinois

The Instructional Coordinator and one member of the Parent Involvement Team worked collaboratively to coordinate “Scott School Family Night with Author, Deborah Chocolate.” The tradition of storytelling was emphasized as students and their families gathered in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) to listen to African-American author, Deborah Chocolate. She shared her experiences as a writer, showed slides of her favorite books, and dramatically told some of the stories she has written.

After Ms. Chocolate finished her presentation, Mr. Joe Stang, the school’s social worker, spoke about the importance of passing on traditions within families. Next, he described a school-wide writing project about the family traditions of Scott students. For the remainder of the evening, those families who wanted to participate in the school-wide writing project learned about the writing process used at Scott school, brainstormed choices of family traditions about which to write, and, in small groups led by parent volunteers, began writing about their family traditions.

A direction sheet was given to participating families so that parents would know how to help their families complete the writing project at home. Completed stories of family traditions were typed by the school secretary and bound by Scott School Publishing Center volunteers. The final product, a book entitled *Traditions, The Fabric of Our Lives*, was sent to each family who contributed a story.

The event was very well received, and feedback was positive. Approximately 30 families attended the evening, and 20 families completed the school-wide writing project by contributing a story about a favorite family tradition. Anderson’s Bookstore gave students a discount on 28 Deborah Chocolate book orders. Deborah Chocolate sent a letter thanking Scott School for its warm reception.

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