

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

FOUNDED IN 1835

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Students show they have the write stuff

Book collaboration a creative success

Wow – there's a lot to like about a recent student project by seniors at Huron High School and a third-grade class at Thurston Elementary.

First of all, it was a book project – and what can we say? We love anything that encourages love of the printed word.

High school students in a graphic arts class taught by Ann Hendrick started working earlier this school year with third-graders in Jessica Anderson's class at Thurston. Together, they studied about books and the printing process, then the third-graders wrote stories for a book of their own, and made illustrations for the stories. The high schoolers printed the book, a project funded by the Freeth Family Fund of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. The compilation is titled, "Room 4 Saves the Books."

The Huron class hosted their third-grade partners last week, showing them some printing presses at the school, including one that dates back

to the 19th century. They ate lunch together, then visited Malloy Inc., a family-owned book printer in Scio Township.

Anytime older and younger students work together, good things can happen. Sharing knowledge and expertise reinforces what you're learning, and the act of mentoring or being mentored can be a powerful, positive force.

It's also great to loop in the connection with this area's book printers. The Ann Arbor region is a hub for short-run book manufacturing, with companies here including Malloy, Edwards Brothers, McNaughton & Gunn and Sheridan Books, among others.

It's also worth mentioning that Hendrick's class of Huron seniors also took a lead in developing the mascot and school colors for the district's new Skyline High School. Getting this kind of experience in school is invaluable.

Kudos to everyone involved.



ELINA-HI GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Keri Hadrill, left, and Rohan Kumar – third-graders at Thurston Elementary School in Ann Arbor – display cards printed for them by Huron High School graphic arts students earlier this month. The cards were printed on a 19th-century hand press, and were part of a broader project in which the Thurston and Huron High students collaborated to make their own book.

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Wednesday, March 21, 2007

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