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## EDUCATION

# Youngest authors invited to festival about writing

By Jodi Rempala  
*Press & Guide*

Elementary-age writers recently had a chance to learn more about the craft during the annual Young Authors Festival at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Area third-, fourth- and fifth-graders took part in the festivities that included meeting author Toni Buzzeo.

Buzzeo is best-known for her children's books, including her 2013 Caldecott Honor Book, "One Cool Friend."

At the festival, children could attend a variety of learning sessions, including exploring characters feelings, illustrations,

how to keep the story moving and studying different types of writing.

Adults were given tips to help support their children's writing development.

During the festival, the young authors got to read their winning contest entries aloud to the audience.

One of those authors was Kinloch Elementary third-grader Marlee Pyle, a student in Susan Krupa's class. She placed third in the contest.

Krupa said she was so excited about Pyle's win, and she had 10 other students in attendance at the festival.

While there, they got to write songs, play

**AUTHORS» PAGE A3**



Marlee Pyle with her teacher, Susan Krupa, at the Young Authors Festival

PHOTO  
COURTESY OF  
LUCAS PYLE



PHOTO COURTESY LUCAS PYLE

Marlee Pyle, and her sister, Maycee, meet Toni Buzzeo.

## Authors

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ukuleles and even make a unique book each.

Pyle's family was very proud of her, and all braved the trip to UM-Dearborn for the festival on icy roads. Her mother, father, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother were on hand.

"Marlee gets inspiration to write because she has such an imagination," said her father, Lucas Pyle. "She loves to create new characters and a whole story sur-

rounding them. She has been reading and writing since before she made it to kindergarten."

Pyle said he and his wife encourage their daughter to be creative.

"We encourage her to continue her writing and reading, and that's not hard to do because she has a thirst for all kinds of knowledge and enjoys using that knowledge along with her imagination when she is writing," he said.

"My wife and I are incredibly proud of all of her accomplishments, especially when they are done

because they are just what she honestly loves to do."

When Marlee is not busy writing new stories, she loves dancing and gymnastics, she loves to paint her sister's and her nails, and spend time with her friends. SkyZone also is one of her favorite places.

The contest was based on Buzzeo's book, "One Cool Friend."

In the book, Elliot comes home with a very special friend after a trip to the aquarium. Students were encouraged to enter an original poem, story, or essay focused on friendship.

## Aid

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ment of personal property including automobiles. Additionally, businesses and private nonprofits are eligible to apply for up to \$2 million to repair or replace

storm-damaged property, as well as working capital loans, according to FEMA.

The SBA loan application deadline is Dec. 15.

Residents can register for individual assistance or check the status of their registrations online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), via smartphone at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov),

or by calling 800-621-3362. To find a Disaster Recovery Center in your area, go to [www.FEMA.gov/disaster-recovery-centers](http://www.FEMA.gov/disaster-recovery-centers).

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