

Michael Kusugak Makes Connection with Teachers and Students in Montreal by Carol-Ann Hoyte

If you haven't heard of Michael Kusugak, you should.

The gentleman in question is an acclaimed, award-winning Inuit author and storyteller who calls Rankin Inlet, Nunavut home.

In the spring of 2008, Kusugak travelled to Montreal to present as one of five featured speakers at ATEQ's April 7th Springboards conference. The days following the event marked a significant occasion as it was the first time he had made school and library visits in the city.

During his presentations, Kusugak told stories, played string games, spoke about his grandmother, discussed his books as well as talked about the Inuit and his Arctic childhood.

On April 8th, through two presentations, he met with Selwyn House School's Grade 1, 2, 3, and 4 boys. This was an extra special treat for the students had seen Geordie Productions' performance of *A Promise is a Promise*, a play adapted from Kusugak's book of the same name long before anyone knew the author would be visiting the school. In the afternoon, he visited the Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 students at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School for Girls (E.C.S.).

On April 9th, he met with Grade 4 Westmount Park students at the Westmount Library in the morning and with Grade 3, 4, 5, and 6 students at Kells Academy in the afternoon.

Kusugak also visited with students at Vanguard School and Gardenview School, both located in St. Laurent.

The author's other books include *Arctic Stories*, *Baseball Bats for Christmas*, *Hide and Sneak*, *My Arctic 1,2,3*, *Northern Lights: the Soccer Trails*, and *Who Wants Rocks?* His latest book, *The Littlest Sled Dog*, will be released in September 2008.

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