

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR PLANS VIRTUAL SCHOOL VISITS IN 13 STATES ON READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (Feb. 24, 2011) –In honor of Read Across America Day, award-winning children's author Suzanne Slade will virtually visit one school in 13 different states for free on March 2.

Read Across America Day, sponsored by the [National Education Association](#), encourages parents, teachers, and children in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Teachers and students across the country are planning exciting events to promote a love of reading for this big day. And award-winning Slade is planning a very special event all her own. She will be reading to students in 13 states (N.C., Fla., N.Y., N.J., N.H., Ore., Ala., Ga., Calif., Ind., Ohio, Ill. and Penn.) via Skype. These free virtual visits will provide many students who've never met a real-life author the chance to come face-to-face with one, and ask questions while they get an inside look at a writer's life. Reading to students from her home in Libertyville, Ill., Slade hopes to make a big impact on thousands of children from coast to coast.

"Reading is the most important skill we can give our children," Slade says. "By offering this free event to schools, I hope to begin a life-long love of reading for many children."

Slade's marathon reading event kicks off at 8 a.m. when she visits her first school, Eaton Elementary, in Wilmington, N.C. From there, Slade will "travel" to The King's Academy in West Palm Beach, Fla., Little River Elementary in Woodstock, Ga., Glendale Primary School in Bedford, Ohio, Watwood Elementary in Childersburg, Ala., The Throop School in Bronx, N.Y., her hometown grade school Parkside, in Goshen, Ind., and Strathmore Middle School in Strathmore, Calif., among others.

Slade is the author of over 80 children's books, including *Animals are Sleeping*, *What's the Difference?*, and *What's New at the Zoo?* (2011 Teacher's Choice Award winner) for Sylvan Dell Publishing. Slade lives near Chicago with her family. For more information about Slade, her Skype tour, and published books, visit her website at www.suzanneslade.com/.

"Suzanne did an excellent job of discussing being an author at the students' level. She treated the entire class like they were old friends sitting down to have a conversation about being an author. After the Skype event, one boy said, 'I can't believe I just talked to a real live author. I still have chills.'"

—Ms. Jamey Stanosz, Portage Community School District, Media Specialist

Schedule for March 2 (Central Time):

8:00 a.m. Wilmington, NC (Eaton Elementary)
8:30 a.m. West Palm Beach, FL (The King's Academy)
9:00 a.m. Bronx, NY (The Throop School)
9:30 a.m. Basking Ridge, NJ (Mount Prospect Elem. School)
10:00 a.m. Temple, NH (Temple Elementary)
10:30 a.m. Lewis, OR (Eccles Elementary)
11:00 a.m. Childersburg, AL (Watwood Elementary)
11:35 a.m. Woodstock, GA (Little River Elementary)
Noon Strathmore, CA (Strathmore Middle School)
12:40 p.m. Goshen, IN (Parkside Elementary)
1:05 p.m. Bedford, OH (Glendale Primary School)
1:30 p.m. Warrenville, IL (Johnson Elementary)
2:00 p.m. Stroudsburg, PA (Stroudsburg Intermediate Elementary School)

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