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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL AUTHOR WINS TEACHER'S CHOICE AWARD FOR THE FAMILY

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (Dec. 16, 2011) –Flourtown author and educator John McGranaghan has been awarded the 2012 *Learning Magazine Teachers' Choice Award for the Family* for *Meet the Planets*, illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein.

Teachers' Choice Awards have been a part of *Learning Magazine* since 1994. Since that time, the program has grown to become one of the most recognized and prestigious awards in the educational market. The Teachers' Choice Awards for the Family is the only awards program that requires panelists to be both teachers and parents. The winners will receive a spotlight in the magazine's Children's Book Award section, as well as a seal distinguishing them as a Children's Books winner.

About the win, McGranaghan says, "As an educator and parent I'm thrilled to win an award that is chosen by both teachers and parents. They are the two most important professions in the world. It is special when they recognize your work."

McGranaghan has always been fascinated by outer space and he shares that fascination in a humorous and educational way through *Meet the Planets* and *Saturn for My Birthday*. He has also written stories and articles for *Boys' Quest Magazine*, *Pockets Magazine*, *Columbia Magazine*, and local newspapers. He is winner of the 2001 Pockets Fiction Contest. When McGranaghan isn't writing, he enjoys sports and spending time with his wife and two boys. He is a school counselor in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Soar into the Solar System to witness the first Favorite Planet Competition, emceed by none other than the former-ninth planet, now known as dwarf planet Pluto. The readers become the judges after the sun can't pick a favorite and the meteors leave for a shower. Who will the lucky winning planet be? Could it be speedy-messenger Mercury, light-on-his-feet Saturn, or smoking-hot Venus? Readers learn all about each planet as Pluto announces them with short, tongue-in-cheek facts. Children will spend hours searching the art in *Meet the Planets* for all the references to famous scientists and people of history, space technology, constellations, art, and classic literature.

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For more information about McGranaghan visit www.johnmcgranaghan.com. For more information about *Meet the Planets* or *Saturn For My Birthday*, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com.

Visuals & Other Requests: For cover art or McGranaghan's headshot, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm. For all interview requests or media queries, please contact Sylvan Dell's publicist, Ashlee Rowe, at (877) 243-3457 or ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishing.com.

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