

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 16, 2018

Two new community events are scheduled in the next couple of weeks that will be great opportunities to bring the public into our building.

The first is an author event initiated by English teacher Katie Hewitt.

Katie has been leading a student book club this year through the weekly mentoring program and thought it would be a fun experience if students could hear from an author of a book they had read.

"I was going to see if we could Skype or Face-Time with an author but when they chose to read *Not a Drop to Drink*, I started researching hosting an author night."

Author and Delaware County resident Mindy McGinnis (right) was receptive to visiting Pickaway-Ross and suggested Katie apply for a grant from the Ohio Humanities Speakers Bureau to cover the cost.

Katie partnered with the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, which pursued the grant and invited the Pickaway County Library to co-host the 6:30 p.m. Nov. 28 event.

"When we started the book club, I wanted it to be student-driven, with them choosing what books to read," Katie said.

"They chose Mindy's book and she has been wonderful about coming out to Pickaway-Ross."

Katie said she hopes the book club serves as a catalyst to encourage family members to read the book selection, too.

"This is an opportunity to build community," Katie said. "A student can say to a family member, 'That author of the book we read will be speaking at my school. Let's go see her.'"

Mindy will talk about *Not a Drop to Drink*, her debut novel, and the process of writing. Student Council members will provide refreshments.



Mrs. Claus and Santa will be available for photos during Pancakes with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Pickaway-Ross.

Student Council also is involved in the Dec. 8 Pancakes with Santa event, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., created by Robin Bussey and Tracey Eyre.

"We wanted to have a winter community event," said Tracey, coming up with hosting a craft show, which are a big draw around the holidays.

Pancakes with Santa will feature pancakes made by Katie and Student Council co-advisor Alex Deaton, available for a \$5 donation. Council members will serve the pancakes and clean up.

Visitors can get their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the library and visit vendors in the commons. A gift-wrapping station also will be available; visitors can bring their purchases to be wrapped or bring in gifts. This service also is available for a small donation.

Tracey said she's been pleased with the response she's gotten from vendors, which include people who make and sell homemade items, such as clothing, candles and candy, as well as home-demonstration vendors Norwex, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Thirty-One Gifts and Tupperware.

I look forward to both events and am pleased with the initiative shown by Katie, Robin and Tracey.

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