

What's the forecast?



Photo by Mark Jahne

Author Elly McGuire reads her book "Schmittty the Weather Dog: Daydream" to an auditorium filled with kindergartners and first-graders at the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary School.

Just ask Schmittty the Weather Dog

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Dogs have much more sensitive senses of smell and hearing than people. One canine, in particular, puts them to good use. Schmittty the Weather Dog utilizes these skills to predict the weather.

At least, that's the storyline in the children's book "Schmittty the Weather Dog: Daydream." It's about a tiny Yorkshire Terrier whose human companion wants to be a television meteorologist. Schmittty uses her heightened senses to help him predict the weather and land the job.

The real-life Schmittty visited the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary School on Brook Street Sept. 23. A stylish New Yorker, she was all decked out in a

kicky black dress with yellow polka dots and sporting her favorite pair of fashion sunglasses.

Her attire matched that of her two human companions, Elly McGuire (author of the book) and "Meteorologist Ron" Trotta. The trio travels all over the country to teach children about the weather and to encourage them to follow their dreams.

McGuire read her book to the 150 assembled kindergartners and first-graders while utilizing a large white board in back of her to display the artwork. The book explained how Schmittty used her senses to detect changes in the weather and how much she wanted to help her "two-legged Dad" land that TV weather reporting job.

"If you want to learn the weather, clap your hands," everyone sang.

Each child was given a flyer teaching them 10 facts about the weather. Topics covered were clouds, lightning, thunder, snow, rain, the

definition of precipitation, temperature, tornado, hurricane and global warming.

Another part of the message was that every boy and girl should follow their dreams. They could become meteorologists, too, if they want to, or maybe even president of the United States.

Then Schmittty came out to join the festivities. She didn't seem the least bit disturbed by all of the excited children. She apparently knows how to talk, too, but only McGuire and Trotta seem capable of hearing her tiny voice.

Each child had a brief chance to personally greet Schmittty after the program. It was deemed a success by school staff.

"We're always trying to integrate literacy with science," said a delighted Principal Gayle Hills. "The program was just right for them. The children were very attentive."

Schmittty has her own song and Meteorologist Ron taught it to the

children. She's also got a website and a Facebook page. **RHL**

To learn more visit
www.schmitttytheweatherdog.com.



Elly McGuire and Schmittty enjoy teaching children about the weather.