



Cuyahoga Falls City Schools
FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD

Certificate of Commendation

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

SHELLY PEARSALL

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TIME AND TALENT THAT YOU INVEST AT ROBERTS MIDDLE SCHOOL. YOUR ENTHUSIASM, GUIDANCE, AND INSPIRATION SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFITS THE STUDENTS' READING AND WRITING SKILLS. YOUR PERSONAL INTERACTIONS WITH THE STUDENTS ON VARIOUS PROJECTS AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES MOTIVATES THE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A GENUINE APPRECIATION FOR READING AND WRITING. YOUR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY SUPPORTS THE CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S VISION AND MISSION.

Dr. Todd M. Nichols,
Superintendent/CEO

2/6/2019

Date

Ms. Karen Schofield,
President - Board of Education

2/6/2019

Date



CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Friend of Education Award

Shelley Pearsall – February 6, 2019

About eight years ago, two teachers at Roberts Middle School contacted local young adult author Shelley Pearsall to see if she would be willing to “make a deal” with them. Pearsall had posted on her website that she performed Skype visits for a very reasonable price, one that the teachers hoped they could get funded through the Roberts’ PTA, principal’s account, or through a Cuyahoga Falls Foundations grant. Since Pearsall lived in Silver Lake at the time, the teachers asked her if she would be willing to do a one hour visit to Roberts rather than Skype for the same nominal fee. Little did they know that this would be the beginning of a wonderful relationship between Shelley Pearsall and the students and staff at Roberts Middle School.

Since that initial contact, Shelley and her husband Mike have visited Roberts at least annually to meet with sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who voluntarily take part in the school’s annual Reading Festival, coordinated by a group of students on the Reading Festival Committee that is overseen by Mrs. Courtney Rubino. Pearsall has shared how her writing career began, the highlights of some of her opportunities as a writer, as well as some of the challenges she has faced and how she overcame them. She has reinforced for students the need for multiple drafts of their writing, much to the delight of the building’s language arts teachers. She has worked with students on book trailers, character writing, and other writing pieces, helping to develop them as both writers and readers.

When a new book was being published that Shelley had shared at a previous conference, she invited the students to attend an evening at a library in the Cleveland area so that they could meet other authors and receive copies of the book. In addition to her scheduled visits, Shelley has also reached out via Mrs. Rubino to work with students on various other tasks. Students have worked with her to preview and give feedback on drafts of future novels, and their voices have helped influence characters in those novels. It has been a thrill for those students to be credited for their contributions.

Shelley’s continued investment in Roberts and its students has motivated young adults to keep reading at an age when some may abandon it for other interests. Their reading and writing has benefited from her enthusiasm, and their lives have been enriched through their experiences with this local author. We are grateful for her work with are students, and we look forward to enriching our relationship in the future.