

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1029, Windsor Avenue

Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Contact: Elizabeth Juliano

Work: 973-770-8862

Email: [ejuliano@hopatcongschools.org](mailto:ejuliano@hopatcongschools.org)

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**Hopatcong, NJ - Reading is Fun, Durban is Great,  
An Author Came to Celebrate!**

**Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces –**



Thanks to a generous donation from the Hopatcong Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (HEPTO), the Durban Avenue School was honored to have a guest author visit on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. New Jersey native author, Lisa Funari Willever, led a school-wide assembly on the writing, illustrating, editing, and publishing process along with highlighting her Nicky Fifth book series that focuses on our great state of New Jersey! Throughout the year, students had been reading about and following the characters “Nicky” and “T-Bone” on their adventures throughout the state. Ms. Kouris’ 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and Ms. Amelio’s 5<sup>th</sup> grade class earned VIP seating for this event from the door decorating contest earlier this year. Our students came up with great questions for our author and learned how they could enter a contest to become a character in her newest book. This interactive program lasted over an hour and the students learned so much!



Following the assembly, Mrs. Willever stayed to personally hand out all pre-ordered, autographed books that the students had ordered earlier in the year. Each student had their own time to meet the author, ask questions, and have their picture taken with her. Even reporters from our own “Durban Digs” newspaper had the opportunity to interview her for an upcoming article in their next edition.

Mrs. Willever surprised the student body and teachers with complementary goodie-bags filled with writing journals, an activity book, bookmarks, a poster, and a chapter book to keep in each classroom. A special thanks to Mrs. Ruth DeSalvia, Mrs. Dawn Valle-Campo, Mrs. Kristine Kester, and Mrs. Stacy Yanko for all of their hard work and dedication in making this event a success!!

