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NEWSWORTHY KANSAS CITY KIDS

by Lisa Harrison

It's not everyday that you meet a pair of young men who became published authors and illustrators when they were just nine and eleven years old. *Tic Talk - Living with Tourette Syndrome - A 9-year-old boy's story in his own words* was written by Dylan Peters and illustrated by Zachary Wendland when they were elementary school students in the Olathe School District.



Dylan was a third grade student in the gifted education program who had finished his last assigned project earlier in the year than his teacher had anticipated. Mrs. Sudhalter gave him an idea. She encouraged him to use his writing talents to tell other children what it was like living with Tourette Syndrome. Thinking this might help others, Dylan decided to give it a try.

Fellow Quest program classmate Zach Wendland, a fifth grader at the time, was brought on board to provide illustrations for the story. While math is Zach's favorite subject and he aspires to become an Olympic gymnast, he says he enjoyed the process of brainstorming ideas for the illustrations and seeing the book project come together.

Dylan is a typical all-American boy who loves to play football, soccer, and baseball. His favorite subjects in school are reading and math. He enjoyed being on television to talk about his book but feels that the publishing of a book is quite a roller coaster and does not anticipate writing another one.

Tic Talk can be found at several area Border's Bookstores or at TicTalkBook.com.

Do you know a newsworthy Kansas City kid that Kansas City Parent should feature? E-mail us at editor@kcparent.com with a brief summary about the noteworthy Kansas City kid for consideration.

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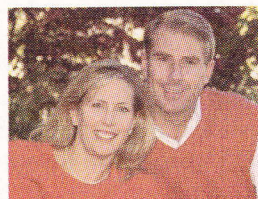
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