

— THE —
ANN ARBOR NEWS

Book project unites students Thurston, Huron students team up

Monday, March 19, 2007

BY DAVID JESSE

News Staff Reporter

As he sat on a stool in Huron High School's graphic arts lab, Simon Keep flipped open an 80-page book to find his own story.

"It's cool," the Thurston Elementary School third-grader said. "Just knowing that you're in a book and people could look at it and read it."

Keep and other students in Jessica Anderson's class saw their book for the first time last week, thanks to a group of Huron High School students.

Members of Ann Hendrick's graphic arts class have been working with the Thurston students on the book since the beginning of the year.

They started by reading a book together on the subject of printing and books.

"We used that book as the starting point for our own writing," Hendrick said.

The third-graders wrote and revised their stories on district laptop computers and then e-mailed them to their Huron counterparts. Illustrations were also drawn by the third-graders and shipped to the Huron students.

The writing fit nicely into Anderson's curriculum plans. "We really didn't go outside our curriculum," she said.

After the third-graders were done writing, the Huron students took over and printed the books at the high school.

Late last week, the two groups got together to see the book, titled "Room 4 Saves the Books."

The entire project was funded by a grant through the Freeth Fund of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation.

After seeing the book, the third-graders also looked at a variety of presses at Huron, including a Kelsey Press that would have been used to print materials more than 130 years ago.

After lunch together, Huron and Thurston students took a trip to Malloy Book Manufacturing, where they got to check out the printing process.

"It's been fun to watch the seniors working with the littler students," Hendrick said. "It's reinvigorated them."

David Jesse can be reached at djesse@annarbornews.com or at 734-994-6937.