

# Reading is a very good thing

Children's book author Jim Westcott, a 1987 Newark High School graduate, told children at Kelley School June 11<sup>th</sup> how important reading is, not just in school but in all aspects of life.

His latest book, "Jack's Tales" published earlier this year, is intended to engage younger, reluctant readers with three, funny short stories about a boy who "refuses to allow his anxiety disorder to be anything but what it really is: vapor and lies."

Readers will likely find themselves rooting for Jack as he faces his fears and grows stronger and triumphs over them.

Westcott's presentation at Kelley included a powerpoint presentation about what his life was like growing up in Newark.

He talked with children about writing and why he decided five years ago to leave his 15-year-career as a special education teacher and write full-time.

Westcott also outlined the nuts and bolts of writing a children's book and finding a publisher and how "Jack's Tales" became reality.

He also took questions from children and signed some books.

The son of Nellie Colarocco, who retired from her teacher assistant job with the NCSD in 2012 and who still subs, Westcott lives outside of Rochester with wife, Sue, and two sons, Andrew and Jack.

"Jack's Tales" was published by Splashing Cow Books and was chosen as a 2015 finalist in the category of Children's Fiction Chapter Books by the National Indie Excellence Book Awards.

To learn more about "Jack's Tales" and Westcott, visit [www.jackstales.com](http://www.jackstales.com)

