



BONHOMME
WHERE FAITH GROWS

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ST. LOUIS AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR VISITS BONHOMME PRESCHOOL AND KIDS DAY OUT

Chesterfield, Missouri

On Thursday, February 9, from the very end of the hallway at Bonhomme Preschool and Kids Day Out came lots of giggles and, finally, a loud “RAUR!” The school for children ages six months through Junior Kindergarten had not been infiltrated by lions, or tigers (or bears), but merely by St. Louis children’s book author and illustrator, Dan Killeen. Killeen is the author and illustrator of three children’s books, *Derrick and the Dinosaurs* (hence the “RAUR” coming from the classroom) and two *Tillie & Clementine* titles.

Killeen took the time to introduce the pre-kindergarten and junior-kindergarten classes, about 40 children in all, to the art of illustration, showing each step of his process from pencil sketches to colored design, which he does on his computer. He asked, “Do you ever color?” The students quickly responded, one at a time, raising their hands, “I color Star Wars pictures.” “I make cards for my family.” Everyone was engaged. And then, Killeen read the students his book, *Derrick and the Dinosaurs*, carefully pointing out details of his illustration on each page.

Bonhomme Preschool and Kids Day Out administration has a rich history of bringing in “curriculum enhancements” to expound on their curriculum. The school always welcomes professionals to schedule a day to teach the young learners.

Sharon Rinklin, director of the program, emphasizes, “It is important for children to learn from as many different people as possible in their early years. They are not only learning academically but also socially and emotionally in how to respond to different teaching methods and personalities. The children are so excited and retain more information when they learn from the professionals themselves over the teachers teaching about what the professionals actually do.”



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Bonhomme Presbyterian Church was founded 200 years ago, in 1816, with a pioneering spirit and a strong foundation of faith. That spirit and faith, established by our missionary founder, Salmon Giddings, has led us to join a new pioneering denomination of Presbyterians called the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), and grow to nearly 1500 members. Our church is warm and welcoming, with an updated campus that includes state-of-the-art facilities (including the Bonhomme Preschool and Kids Day Out program) with comfortable commons, classrooms for all ages and technology to enhance worship. We are situated atop a hill covering approximately nine acres in West County, Saint Louis. Our people grow spiritually through worship in both traditional and contemporary styles, as well as Bible study, community groups, missional service and more. Bonhomme Presbyterian Church is led by a group of inspirational, highly educated and grounded-in-faith pastors. Dedicated to providing a spiritual life that is centered in Jesus, and multigenerational and missional in approach, our church welcomes people of all ages and circumstances. Bonhomme helps people grow in faith, hope and love by proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior. We want to meet you where you are in your journey of faith and help you grow. For more information, visit bonpres.org or call 636.532.3486.

About Happy Fun Books:

Happy Fun Books is the homegrown publishing effort of Dan Killeen. The books feature silly family humor that appeals to both kids and adults. The illustration invokes the classic comic strips Dan admired as a lad. Occasional challenging words pop up in the text, but young readers can decipher (there's a challenging word right there) the meaning by using context clues in the surrounding text or accompanying illustration.

The Tillie & Clementine series is inspired by his brother's girls and the improvised bedtime stories he tells them. Derrick is likewise inspired by dinosaur-obsessed nephews. All kids deserve to star in their own children's book, so Uncle Dan is happy to re-create the adventures of his silly young relatives.

Dan Killeen is the author and illustrator of three children's books - Derrick and the Dinosaurs and two Tillie & Clementine titles. He grew up reading old Peanuts collections which his mom would pick up for him at garage sales along with his outfits. While studying at Indiana University he contributed a strip featuring the beloved character Implosion Boy to the Daily Student newspaper. Dan was later awarded a fellowship honor from the Washington Post Writers Group for his comic strip entitled [Steve](#). He lives down by the river in good ol' St. Louis.

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