

SISO Celebrates New Young Authors!

A celebration of SISO's first literacy Youth HOST programme was held on Thursday, April 24th at the Hamilton Public Library.

Five students enrolled in the programme were honoured and celebrated for their courage and wonderful efforts in putting their very own stories down on paper and creating beautiful storybooks.

These new young authors worked diligently with their peer mentors who coached, encouraged and journeyed with them through this exciting and empowering programme.

The Burmese children and teens that were chosen for this successful pilot project were very reserved and shy at first. But, with time they developed a warm friendship with their peer mentors and initiated storytelling of their very own.

The module that was used for this programme was launched with an appearance from TV Treehouse's very own "Grandma Ella". She shared stories and tips on oral storytelling with the students and mentors.

When it came down to authoring their very own books, Robert Munsch came and shared his passion of storytelling and spoke of his hardships and successes in becoming a worldwide famous children's author. Mr. Munsch explained to the audience at LIUNA Station that he too found school a challenge, but he found his wanting to make children laugh to be his passion and he turned that passion into a full time job of book making. He then gifted each child with storybooks and took the time to autograph each one.

What an exciting experience for every child, teen and adult in the room!

The children invited their families and friends to share in this celebration of storytelling with Robert Munsch and in their very own Storybook Festival honouring their great accomplishments in book making. Each one quietly, but proudly, accepted their congratulations along with their certificates from Loyd Kibaara, Youth HOST Coordinator & Programme Co-Facilitator, Carmen Condó, ESL Teacher & Programme Co-Facilitator and Charlene Routery, Assessment Coordinator & inspiration for this module.

We, at SISO, wish each one of [our young authors](#) much success and may their stories always be colourful and full of passion!