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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR KEIKO KASZA VISITED

### ALL FIRST GRADERS IN THE KIMBERLY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kimberly, Wis. – October 17, 2018 - [Keiko Kasza](#), children's book author and illustrator, visited with all first graders from the [Kimberly Area School District](#). It was a special event on Friday, October 12, where the entire Class of 2030 was bussed to [Janssen Elementary School](#) to hear from the well-known author.

The gym at Janssen was filled with a loud “Yes!” when Kasza asked the students if they liked reading and then again when she asked if they liked writing. Literacy is a building block to academic success and a strong foundation early on sets the groundwork for future learning. It was a proud moment when these young learners identified as readers and writers.



The students were enthralled to hear about Kasza’s writing and illustrating process. Kasza read her book “Finders Keepers,” to the students. She also showed them pages of her rough drafts and sketches for her book “A Mother for Choco.” She then played a professional recording of that book.

The students were astounded when she told them that it takes about two years’ worth of work for one of her books to be published. Kasza has published 22 books and her work has been translated into 16 languages.

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Kasza demonstrated that by using a few lines for the eyes and mouth, you can easily illustrate emotions. She enlisted a few student volunteers to help give her drawing of a pig different emotions, like happy or sad.

Kasza also spoke about her childhood growing up in Japan.

While she now lives in the United States, it was clear that she

enjoys sharing her heritage with others. The students especially enjoyed her timed origami demonstration where, in less than 70 seconds, she created an origami bird that can flap its wings.

This was a great opportunity for the students to hear from a well-known children's book creator. Kasza was in our community because she presented during the Fox Cities Book Festival. The District's elementary principals with the help of the [Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library](#) were able to arrange for this special visit. The library also arranged for Kasza to visit with students in Little Chute. Thank you to all those involved in providing this opportunity for the Class of 2030.

### **About the Kimberly Area School District**

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,100 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit [www.kimberly.k12.wi.us](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us).