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ECSD MEDIA ADVISORY

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Team Behind *Kazoo Makes the Team* to Visit ECSD Schools During Literacy Week
Media Welcome to Attend

Pensacola, FL: Beulah Elementary School will kick off next week's Celebrate Literacy Week in Escambia County Schools with a visit from a local book author, Mandy Fernandez. Fernandez teamed with Andy Marlette to create a book for kids about how Kazoo went from being a sea monster to becoming the mascot for the Blue Wahoos baseball team.

Starting at 8:00 a.m., Fernandez will read the book to Beulah Elementary's third grade students and then talk about what is involved in being an author and answer questions from the students. When her visit ends, each student will get a copy of the book - to keep. She will also visit Global Learning Academy on Tuesday morning to do the same with their third grade students. During Literacy Week, every third grade student in the county, and Santa Rosa County, will get a copy of the book to add to their personal libraries from Quint and Rishy Studer.

Media are welcome to join us at either school. Please give me a call (393-0539), or send an email, so I can let the schools know who to expect.

We will have photos on Facebook on the Escambia Schools Public Relations page after each of these visits.

Here is a release with additional information from the Kazoo team, shared with their permission.

Local Book Donated To Escambia County Students during Celebrate Literacy Week

Escambia County Third Graders Receive Kazoo Makes the Team Book Gift

Pensacola, Fla. – January 20, 2017 – Every third grade child in Escambia County Schools will receive a copy of the book, *Kazoo Makes the Team*, this week in honor of Celebrate Literacy Week. This Blue Wahoos mascot theme inspired children's story was released at local stores on Dec. 23, 2016. Now the book is being donated to school kids by local entrepreneurs and philanthropists Quint and Rishy Studer. This adds to the couple's community engagement efforts to build a more educated youth in northwest Florida.

The team of people behind this story includes local author Mandy Fernandez and local illustrator Andy Marlette. They were inspired to write the rhyme, bring the characters to life and include vocabulary building, discussion questions and learning activities at the story's close.

"This book has been in development since before my Be the Bulb community initiative. Mandy and Andy have put this together prior to Pensacola becoming an early learning city yet the timing is perfect to promote our literacy programs. We anticipate that this is only the beginning for stories to help kids learn and succeed," said Quint Studer.

The rhyming tale features the beloved creature Kazoo first discovering the Wahoos baseball team and stadium in Pensacola. Later in the narrative, readers will learn how Kazoo struggles but later triumphs to become the team's number one fan. The story is one that educators, parents and children can relate to and discuss frequently.

During Celebrate Literacy Week, the author will be doing book readings in two local schools, Beulah Elementary School and Global Learning Academy. The Blue Wahoos mascot Kazoo and their community relations department will also visit schools to engage in reading fun.

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