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More than just a fourth birthday in November... Sylvan Dell Publishing garners four 2008 awards in two weeks!

MT. PLEASANT, SC (December 1, 2008) – Lee German is a retired Naval Officer; his wife, Donna, is a *New York Times* bestselling author. After retirement and a six-month cross-country, US National Park trip with their three daughters, it was decided—they would follow their dreams and create children’s books that were not only exciting to read but also part of a cross-curricular learning adventure. In November of 2004, the dream came true, and this past month, four years later, Sylvan Dell has added four new awards to their already impressive collection of over 50 prestigious picture book awards and distinctions.

“From the early onset, we wanted to provide children with books that they would enjoy reading and that would encourage them to WANT to learn more about science and math,” said co-founder Donna German. “After watching how our own children loved the hands-on activities at science museums and national parks, we wanted to include some type of hands-on activity in each book to give parents and teachers the opportunity to help children to cement the learning. All the awards and accolades (and sales!) suggest we are on the right path.”

Three of the recent awards went to Sylvan Dell new releases, while one award went to the company as a whole. Scholastic’s *Instructor Magazine* gave Sylvan Dell a Teacher’s Choice Best of 2008 Award, in celebration of their mission of “science and math through literature.” The fall 2008 release *Sort It Out!* won a Moonbeam Gold Medal and a USA Book News Best Book Award, while another fall 2008 release, *Whistling Wings*, won Moonbeam Bronze.

The Moonbeam awards are held annually and are sponsored by the Independent Publisher Online Magazine. This year, the Sylvan Dell winners were among 1,085 other entries. The Best Book Awards are sponsored by USABookNews.com, the premiere online magazine and review website for mainstream and independent publishing houses. Now in its fifth year, awards were given out in 140 different categories.

The staff of Sylvan Dell has much to be proud of this year, beyond these multiple awards. In June 2008, Sylvan Dell announced an unprecedented School Resource Grant, hoping to further pursue its mission of “bringing science and math to children through literature.” Who knew that a mere five months later over 1600 schools nationwide would answer the call?

The grant is for a free, one-year site license, providing unlimited access to all 35 Sylvan Dell eBooks, featuring flipviewer technology with selectable English *and* Spanish text *and* audio. The license can be used on all school computers and may be placed on secure school websites, enabling students and their families to login and have access from their homes. The amazing response to this grant offer spurred Sylvan Dell to go even further, announcing last week that they are making available an additional 2000 grants specifically for Title I and Title III schools.

Another big project, Sylvan Dell books have been recently aligned to all state math and science curriculum standards. Alignment to standards helps teachers with lesson planning and more closely ties Sylvan Dell titles to classroom learning objectives.

The successful tides show no sign of turning as this small company rolls toward 2009. Ten new titles are already scheduled for publication, and preorders have started flowing in. So as they celebrate their fourth birthday, how does co-founder Lee German feel about all this?

“In speaking with teachers and administrators, you just sense the excitement when they discover the huge amount of free online resources in support of our titles. No publisher in the US even comes close. It is about value added, and we are the leaders. Also, our new eBooks are stunning and unique in the industry... honestly, no other eBooks out there offer selectable language and audio, on the fly,” he said. “Now we hope and pray that the enthusiasm continues to translate into strong sales and company growth during this period of economic uncertainty. Having a mission that is focused on actually producing and providing literacy and educational tools that are appreciated by our customers adds a positive spin to our company that permeates everything we do. We want to make a huge contribution to literacy and education in this country, and we are working hard to get there.”

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About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell picture books with science, math and nature themes excite children’s imaginations through fun stories, vibrant artwork and a 3-5 page “For Creative Minds” educational section in the back of each book. But that is just the start...what really makes the books unique is their tremendous amount of free, online educational material available for cross-curricular learning, including: 30-40 page Teaching Activities, Interactive Reading and Math Quizzes, and much more. They have 57 authors and illustrators on the Sylvan Dell team, and their 35 titles have been honored as nominees, finalists, or winners of more than 50 book awards. Sylvan Dell eBooks, available in English and Spanish, are wonderful for use with in-classroom projection or smartboards and are ideal for Spanish language classes and ESL students at all grade levels.

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