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“This is the ice that floats in the Arctic waters....”

Local author shares literary tips and ocean expertise with children and educators in Illinois

MT. PLEASANT, SC (November 5, 2008) – Children’s book author and Illinois resident Laura Crawford will be featured at a number of upcoming events with her picture book *In Arctic Waters*. As temperatures begin to drop, what better time to celebrate the Arctic and the amazing sea creatures that call this freezing ocean home?

An Arctic adaptation of “This is the House that Jack Built,” *In Arctic Waters* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, illustrated by Ben Hodson) follows polar bears, walruses, seals, narwhals, and beluga whales as they chase each other around “the ice that floats in the Arctic waters.” Not only is the rhythmic, cumulative prose good for early readers, it is a pure delight to read aloud. The “For Creative Minds” section helps children learn how these animals live in the cold, icy Arctic region.

Although she previously taught elementary school, author Laura Crawford currently acts as the Reading Specialist at Sleepy Hollow School. While teaching a science unit on the Arctic, she became fascinated with the unique animals of the Arctic. The cumulative tale, *In Arctic Waters*, is the result of her curiosity and was written with her students in mind.

Ms. Crawford will appear at the following Illinois events:

- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 AM, Barnes and Noble, Vernon Hills, Reading and Signing
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 1:30 PM, Ela Area Public Library, Lake Zurich, Presentation and Signing
- Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:00 PM, Coleman Elementary School, Elgin, Literacy Night
- Friday, Nov. 21, 10:30 AM, Blythe Park Elementary School, Riverside, School Visit
- Monday, Nov. 24, 9:00 AM, Hampshire Elementary School, Hampshire, School Visit

Although Ms. Crawford adores the opportunity to share her work with children, educators, and parents, the final penning of *In Arctic Waters* was not a short or simple journey. How long did it take her to complete the children’s book manuscript?

“A LONG TIME,” said Ms. Crawford. “It took me several weeks to research and learn all about the animals. I did several rough drafts, most of which were terrible! I finally got the story to a point that I liked, but then I changed it several times because it still didn’t sound quite right. After a few weeks of working on it, I took it to my writing group, where they had lots of wonderful suggestions to make my book better. I went home to

improve it again. I revised *In Arctic Waters* about 19 times before I sold it. I am so glad that I finally got it right!”

Ms. Crawford continues to write children’s books. She has considered a chapter book, but for the time being, she’s sticking to picture books. She says she enjoys writing them, because she spends her days reading similar books to her students.

For more information about *In Arctic Waters*, Laura Crawford, or Sylvan Dell Publishing in general, visit the Sylvan Dell Publishing website, <http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com>. For additional inquiries or to schedule an interview with Ms. Crawford, contact Sara Dobie, Public Relations, at 877-958-2600 or SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com.

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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: 30-80 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 interactive whiteboards (Smartboards) and are ideal for Spanish language classes and ESL students at all grade levels.

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