



Fredrick R. Burton, Ph.D.  
Principal

# Wickliffe

## Informal Alternative Elementary School

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When Will Hillenbrand walked into Wickliffe Alternative Elementary on December 8, 1998, he was an Ohio author-illustrator who was coming to share his talent and craft. When he left at the end of the day, he was our new friend.

We got to know Will Hillenbrand, the person as well as Will Hillenbrand the artist. He showed slides that allowed us glimpses into his childhood and journey as an artist. We got to have insider information as he showed and talked about his new books yet to be published. He autographed books long after school was out. Will is organized, informative, creative, generous and delights in the work of children.

His books provided us with opportunities for many extensions that complemented our curriculum. For instance, as a school we wrote a song with seven verses to accompany **The Biggest, Best Snowman** that is still sung. When we read his books that were published after his visit, we felt as if we were visiting an old friend. The visit provided us with a face, a voice and a personality.

We could only hope that all of our author visits are of this quality.

Best regards,

*Diane Driessen*

Diane Driessen, Ph.D.  
Librarian