

Sierra School of Peoria

September Newsletter



Author Visit to Sierra

We were thrilled to welcome **Meg Eden Kuyatt**, the talented author of *Good, Different*, to Sierra School of Peoria for a special visit with our students. This unforgettable event provided an opportunity for students to meet with the author, ask questions, and dive deeper into the world of her story.

Good, Different features a main character on the autism spectrum, a theme that resonated strongly with many of our students. The book's focus on neurodivergent representation offered an empowering message for everyone in attendance—reminding us all that our differences make us uniquely valuable.

During her visit, Meg shared insights into her writing process, the inspiration behind the book, and the importance of seeing oneself reflected in literature. Students were encouraged to embrace their individuality and to understand the power of stories in fostering empathy and connection. The visit highlighted just how essential representation is in helping students feel seen, heard, and understood.

We are incredibly grateful to Meg Eden Kuyatt for taking the time to share her work and her wisdom with our community. It was an experience our students will remember for years to come!



- 10/3 Fun Friday: Superhero Day
- 10/10 Fun Friday: Fall Celebration
- 10/13-10-17 Fall Break: No School
- 10/23: Open House
- 10/24 Fun Friday: Game Day
- 10/31 Fun Friday: Halloween



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Empowering Families: A Successful Parent Info Night with Meridian Special Needs Planning

Sierra School of Peoria was proud to host an insightful and impactful **Parent Info Night** in partnership with **Meridian Special Needs Planning**, aimed at empowering families with the tools and knowledge needed to plan for their loved one's future.

The evening brought together parents, caregivers, and professionals for a comprehensive session focused on the critical aspects of planning for individuals with special needs. Meridian's experienced team shared valuable guidance on a range of topics designed to support long-term security and quality of life.

Topics Covered Included:

✓ Lifestyle Preferences

Families learned how to define and document the lifestyle preferences of their loved ones to ensure their personal values, daily routines, and community connections are respected in the future.

✓ Potential Legal Issues

Attendees were informed about key legal considerations that can arise in special needs planning, from decision-making authority to estate planning complexities.

✓ Financial Security

Meridian provided strategies for building long-term financial security, including how to manage assets without jeopardizing eligibility for public benefits.

✓ Letter of Intent

This important, non-legal document helps guide future caregivers by outlining personal, medical, and educational information specific to the child's needs and preferences



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• ✓ Guardianship & Conservatorship

Families were given clear, compassionate explanations of guardianship and conservatorship options, including when they are appropriate and what the process entails.

The night concluded with a Q&A session, allowing families to ask personalized questions and gain further clarity on how to take the next steps in their planning journey.

Sierra School of Peoria remains committed to supporting our students and their families beyond the classroom. We are grateful to **Meridian Special Needs Planning** for their dedication to empowering families with the knowledge to confidently plan for the future.

📅 Stay tuned for more workshops and family education events throughout the year!

