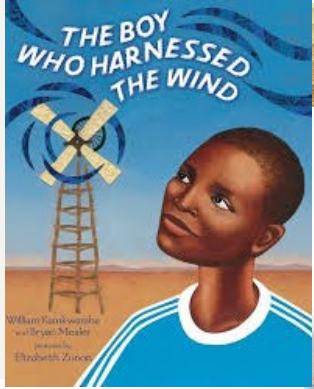


Ramaz Lower School Book Day, March 3, 2016



Opening Assembly: Students in grades 1 through 4 Skyped with Bryan Mealer, co-author of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Students were able to interview Mr. Mealer, asking him many of the questions they had about William Kamkwamba and the writing of his story.



Special Guest: Students in grades 1 through 4 met Elizabeth Zunon, illustrator of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Ms. Zunon shared her research and her experiences of creating the illustrations for the book.

Innovation: Africa is a non-profit organization that takes Israeli innovations to rural African villages. It provides solar powered electricity to orphanages, medical clinics, and schools. It also provides water pumps and drip irrigation systems to communities. In 8 years, Innovation: Africa has impacted almost 800,000 people in 8 countries.

In today's interactive session, students in grades 3 and 4 took part in games and demonstrations to learn about the impact of Israeli technology in Malawi. The children were encouraged to think about the different ways that renewable technology can be used to solve problems facing the developing world.

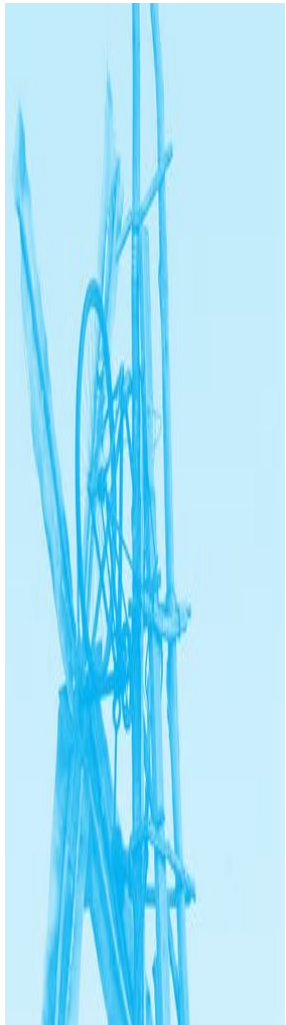
Book Day Science Activities:

Grade 1 First grade students accessed their knowledge of wind to engineer a wind detection device, making use of everyday materials such as string, streamers, bags, and cardboard tubes.

Grade 2 Second grade students learned that a force is a push or pull that can make an object move. Connecting to their science class study of force and motion, second grade students experimented with air-powered cars they built.

Grade 3 An anemometer is a device used for measuring wind speed. In line with their science class investigation of weather and climate, students created model anemometers with the use of straws, cardboard, and small cups.

Grade 4 Students extended their understanding of electricity and energy as they engineered and tested wind turbines. In the classes before Book Day, students collaborated in groups to design and create wind turbine blades. They used testing data and feedback to improve their designs in hopes of harnessing as much energy from wind as possible. Wind turbine blades and footage of the design process were on display in the school lobby.





Math Grades 1 through 4: Mancala is an African game played by William and his friends. With simple rules, it involves many layers of mathematical thinking. It is a “wide entry, high ceiling” activity. This means the game allows children and adults of all ages and skill levels to apply mathematical concepts ranging from the most basic, such as counting and comparing quantities, to sophisticated visualization, logic, and strategic planning. As in chess, players learn to anticipate their opponent’s potential moves and plan their own countermoves, which involves synthesizing a great deal of mathematical information. All students in grades 1 through 4 played this game and evaluated different strategies for capturing their opponents stones.

Music Grades 1 and 2: Students participated in an African drumming session, led in Hebrew, by Ramaz LS Judaic Studies teacher Morah Naama.

Music Grade 4: Students experienced traditional Southeast African music through a rhythmic body percussion activity with Morah Chaya and Morah Avital. They explored how different drum sounds are expressed simply by using their bodies as percussive instruments. Students learned specific rhythm patterns and performed together in canon (round).

Hebrew Language Grades 3 and 4: Through games and an interactive presentation, students explored the difficult period in Jerusalem’s history before its Jewish residents left the Old City walls in the 1850s. Students learned how Sir Moses Montefiore built a (flour) windmill outside the walls to encourage the residents to leave. They connected the story of this windmill and the people of Jerusalem with William Kamkwamba’s story.



A Taste of Malawian Cuisine: Students in grades 1 through 4 sampled the tastes of Malawi: sweet potato soup, roasted chicken with jollof rice, kachumbari tomato salad, and collard greens. Students enjoyed a special surprise dessert.

Art Grades 1 and 2: Just as William did, students made their own toys from found objects.



Dance Grades 1 through 4: Artist Farai Malianga led Malawian dance workshops for students in grades 1 through 4. Mr. Malianga is a well-known African dancer, drummer, folklorist, and composer who has performed on stage with various dance companies, in theater and in film, and whose composition credits include commissioned works for Camille Brown and “Jenaguru” an African creation myth, for the Smithsonian.

William went to the library and happened to find a book that would change his life and the lives of everyone in his village.

What book will change your life?



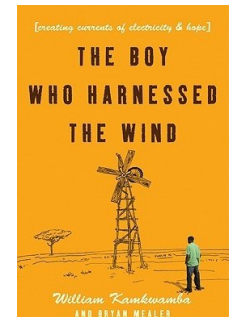
Physical Education Grades 1-4: In the days leading up to Book Day, students connected to the book through a cooperative game played during their PE class. Using Hula Hoops, bean bags, wristbands, Lego pieces, cones, pinwheels, poly spots and scooters, each team worked together to build a windmill. Team members took turns gathering materials and together built windmills from these materials. Flashlights were used to represent the point in the story where William was able to use wind energy to light up an electric bulb.



Grand Finale: The Grand Falloons are 15 year veterans of the Big Apple Circus. They have appeared in museums and schools across the country as well as on television and in Broadway and Off Broadway productions. Students learned about the earth's resources through magic, juggling, stories, music and audience participation. As William Kamkwamba demonstrated in the Book Day book, the value of reusing and recycling was highlighted.

For adults interested in learning more about this incredible story:

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: creating currents of electricity and hope by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer.



We wish to thank the **Parents Council** for its support of this program.

For more information, please contact: Mrs. Haviva Donin Peters, Ramaz Lower School Library (212) 774-8010 lslibrary@ramaz.org

