

# The News Eagle

## Community Vocational Leadership Program at two regional schools

Posted May 24, 2014 at 12:01 AM

WESTFALL TWP. - On Tuesday, May 27th Delaware Valley High School will host a program celebration titled 'On Our Way' a presentation to approximately 40 Junior and Senior students from the Delaware Valley and Wallenpaupack Area High Schools who have participated in the Community Vocational Leadership Program (CVLPTM) during the 2013-2014 school year.



The day's presentation will feature Ed Raarup and Lindsay Nery, respectively, author and Illustrator of the book, *Fireflies and Shooting Stars*, discussing with students what is involved in a writing, graphics, or illustrating career. Additionally, Raarup and Nery will make a special book presentation to approximately 100 students of the 5th grade class at the school. *Fireflies and Shooting Stars* is a book that is an artful and musical tale about Enzo, a little firefly who faces the challenges of being different. In search of his greatest wish, Enzo's adventures take him on a wondrous and fantastical journey— a starlit, magical ride of courage, truth and hope for children of all ages!

Victoria Mavis, the Director of Community Integrated Employment who facilitates the CVLPTM program for the school says, "We called this celebration 'On our way' as it signifies a time for students to move into the next phase of their life. Ed and Lindsay's presentation is a crowning moment for the event as it gives hope to those young children, as well as high school students, who are different--of the quality of life they can have as they become respected for who they are. As we prepare for next year's program, we expect even more promising results as we continue our outreach within the school and the surrounding community."

For full article, please visit: <http://www.neagle.com/article/20140524/NEWS/140529874>

May 29, 2014

## Book Program Brings High School, Grade School Together

By T.A. Crerand

MILFORD — “On Our Way” was a special celebration at the Delaware Valley High School (DVHS) Tuesday morning for juniors and seniors from DV and the Lake Wallenpaupack High School who participated in the Community Vocational Leadership Program (CVLP) during the school year. Another highlight was a local author presenting his award-winning book to five lucky fifth graders.

The CVLP at both schools was facilitated by the Human Resources Center, Inc. and designed to encourage students with disabilities to develop their skills that will in turn help them in the future with their chosen career. About 40 juniors and seniors and 100 fifth graders attended the special year-end event.

Ed Raarup, author of “Fireflies and Shooting Stars, The Tale of Enzo” talked about his book that inspires students to think about what they are good at and recognize their strengths. It is ideal for ages 3 – 8, yet also appeals to adults. “It’s important to do what you are passionate about.”

He explained his book of 10 chapters and 12 songs is about a little firefly named Enzo facing the challenges of being different because he has no taillight. The book and companion CD let the listener enjoy the modern Broadway style musical while following along in the book.

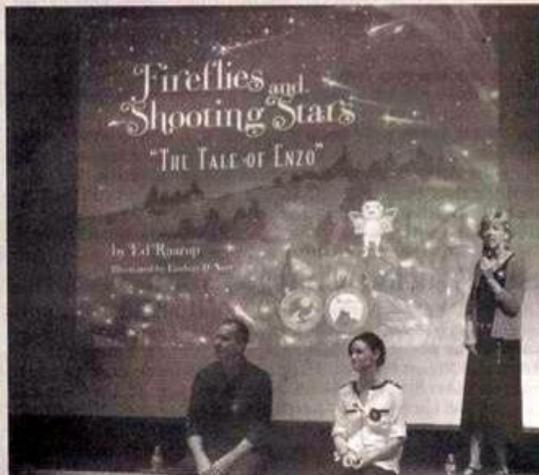
Writing starts with an idea, said Raarup, then writing it down, and finishing by finding a great editor who pays attention to details. The next step is to put your ego aside and listen to criticism from family and friends who read it prior to publishing.

Illustrator Lindsay Nery has over 80 illustrations in the book. She showed how illustrations start with a drawing and end up as lavish graphics generated by computer programs.

Nery said she “always wanted to illustrate children’s books. Embracing your talents is your gift to the world.”

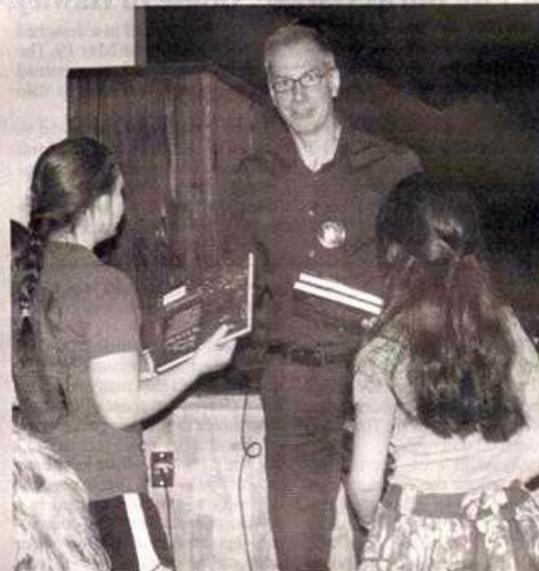
She described taking text and making images that start with a sketch by hand and then using technology to create them and apply color, highlights and details on computer.

During the interactive program, students gave examples of their career choices that included a teacher, paleontologist, wolf biologist, mastering a musical instrument, sports and extreme sports, and singing or performing



(Photos By T.A. Crerand)

Pictured during the “On Our Way” special year-end celebration at DVHS from left are presenters Ed Raarup, author of “Fireflies and Shooting Stars, The Tale of Enzo,” Illustrator Lindsay Nery, and Victoria Mays from the Human Resources Center, Inc.



Author Ed Raarup autographs his book “Fireflies and Shooting Stars, The Tale of Enzo” for some fifth graders at DVHS. The book teaches that it is alright to be different.

in plays. Toward the end of the presentation, Raarup gave five books to fifth graders who found a button taped under their seat in the auditorium.

He and Nery autographed them following the program.

Seniors will either go on to college or pursue employment after graduation. Juniors will continue in the program during their senior

year to enhance their education.

More sequels are in the works. Raarup anticipates a stage adaptation accompanied by orchestra, a holiday book sequel, and maybe a film.

You can find the books online and learn more details at [www.FirefliesandShootingStars.com](http://www.FirefliesandShootingStars.com) and also purchase them at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

# POCONO RECORD

## How a Pocono firefly got famous

By Beth Brelje Posted Dec. 23, 2013 at 12:01 AM



In the year since publication, Milford author Ed Raarup has won three awards for his children's book, inspired by Firefly Field, the playground in Matamoras.

Now the book is spurring interest in similar playgrounds. Firefly Field, at Airport Park, is accessible for children with special needs.

The book, "Fireflies and Shooting Stars: The Tale of Enzo," tells the story of a firefly without a taillight who faces the challenges of being different. In search of his light, Enzo sets out on a journey that leads him to realize his own unique strengths and the importance of accepting the differences in oneself and others.

It was recently recognized by the Mom's Choice Awards with a silver seal of excellence; the Moon Beam Children's Book Awards with a gold medal and the USA Book Award with the top honor in children's fiction.

For full article please visit:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20131223/FEATUR/312230301>

## Local Author wins three awards for children's book

PUBLISHED NOV 26, 2013 AT 12:16 PM



MILFORD — Local author, Ed Raarup, from Milford, Pa. has won three awards for his children's book, "Fireflies and Shooting Stars, The Tale of Enzo." During this first year of publication, the book has won the prestigious Mom's Choice Awards Silver Seal of Excellence, The Moon Beam Children's Book Awards Gold Medal and the USA Book Award Top Honor in Child's Fiction.

Raarup's idea for the book was sparked by Ronnie and Joe Biondo who developed an all-accessible playground for children named "Firefly Field" in Matamoras, Pa. The names for both the playground and book were inspired by the heartwarming song, "Fireflies and Shooting Stars," written by music director and composer, Michael Rice. The 10 chapter book has its own CD with additional songs written by Raarup and arranged by Rice. There are more than 80 illustrations by local artist, Lindsay D. Nery.

"This project has truly been a joyful experience and labor of love," says Raarup. "The story is about Enzo, a little firefly without a taillight, who faces the challenges of being different. In search of his light, Enzo sets out on a fantastical journey which leads him to realize his own unique strengths and the importance of accepting the differences in oneself and others. It is an artful and musical tale of courage, truth and hope for children of all ages."

For full article, please visit:

<http://pikecountycourier.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20131126/NEWS01/131129958/0/SEARCH>

Press Articles for *Fireflies and Shooting Stars*



## 2013 Moonbeam Awards Press Page

"Inspiring Children to Explore, Learn and Cooperate"

2013 Moonbeam Children's Book Award Winners Announced  
by Jim Barnes, Awards Director



(Traverse City, MI - Oct. 10, 2013) Children need positive role models that show them how to get along in life . . . and the winners of this year's Moonbeam Children's Book Awards contain a variety of encouraging and uplifting examples.

The 2013 medalists, 165 in all, represent a wide range of topics, and the judges were impressed by the quality of the books and their inspiring messages for children.

*Fireflies and Shooting Stars* (MoonWatch Productions) tells of a little firefly who overcomes being born without a light.

The Moonbeam Awards exist to bring increased recognition to these kinds of exemplary children's books that inspire and delight children of all ages. Judging panels of librarians, teachers, students, and book reviewers chose medalists in 48 categories, and winning books came from a diverse group of long-established publishers, small presses, associations, and self-publishers.

This year's contest attracted over 1,200 entries from throughout North America and around the world, and medals will go to books representing 35 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 7 countries overseas.

For full article, please visit:

<http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1711>

Press Articles for *Fireflies and Shooting Stars*



## POP Interview: Ed Raarup Inspires With Music, Storytelling and Art In “Fireflies And Shooting Stars”

Written by [Brian Balthazar](#) on July 17, 2013 in [Books](#), [Entertainment](#), [POP Profiles](#), [POP Spotlight](#)



There is something beautiful about the surprising personal stories you discover in the lives of the people you meet. There is always much more to the people you come across in your life than you know – and just one conversation can leave you enlightened and inspired! I was recently reminded of that when I met Ed Raarup. I came to know Raarup, a Milford, Pennsylvania resident, while searching for real estate in his area. In the process of our discussion, I came to learn that he has a rich, compelling backstory. Raarup spent the early years of his career as a NYC actor, singer and writer. As he branched out of the city into the beautiful Pocono region to sell real estate, he took his love of writing and music with him. Utilizing his relationships with Broadway artists and an incredibly gifted illustrator, he began to bring one of his passion

projects to life: A children’s book that combines beautiful art, song and story with a touching message of acceptance.



**There’s a very powerful, important message in this story – talk to me about it, and tell me why it was important for you to share it?**

Enzo probably says it best in the story: “You’ve gotta know just who you are and what you’re good at so you can shine in your own way.” In contrast to the thought that we are all the same or should be, Enzo’s journey leads us to the truth that no one is exactly the same, and we discover the importance of accepting the differences in ourselves and others. By realizing this simple truth, it could be possible to find a way toward goodwill, respect and much happiness for all.

For full article, please visit: <http://popgoestheweek.com/2013/07/pop-interview-ed-raarup-inspires-with-music-storytelling-and-art-in-fireflies-and-shooting-stars/>