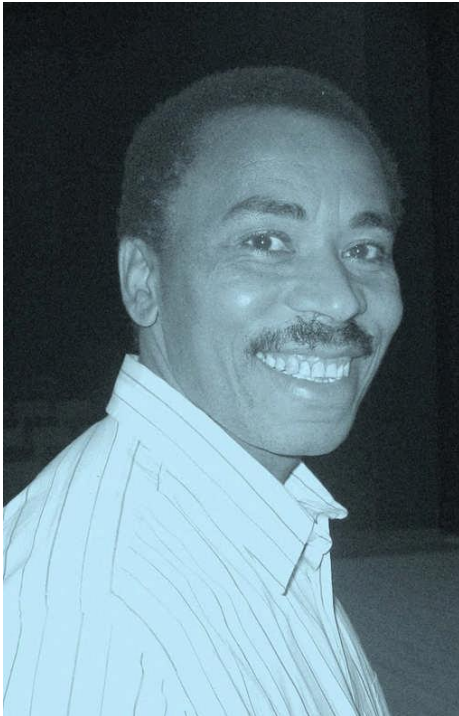


## IT'S TOLOLWA MOLLEL! – LITERACY WEEK APRIL 22 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014



Tololwa Mollel is a storyteller, performer and an award winning author of 17 internationally published children's books. His latest book, From Lands of the Night, will be launched next week in Calgary. He is coming to CWA to share stories and reflections on the writing process with our elementary students on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. His visit will be the culminating event in our celebration of Literacy Week.

We wanted to share the week's schedule with you and to point out **"Dress as Your Favourite Book Character Day" on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>**. We invite your child to dress as his/her favourite book character and carry the book to school. Your child will have many opportunities to tell others why that character is his/her first choice. We also invite you to contact your child's teacher if you would be willing to drop into class and read with our students as a Guest Reader.

God bless,

Katy Morrison, Dean of Academics - Elementary

TUESDAY, APRIL 22	WEDNESDAY, 23	THURSDAY, 24	FRIDAY, 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Author, Lisa Bowes and illustrator, James Hearne visit JK – Grade 1</li><li>➤ Guest Readers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Stop, Drop and Read! JK – Grade 6</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Dress as Your Favourite Book Character</li><li>➤ Guest Readers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Author Tololwa Mollel visits JK – Grade 6</li></ul>

## Tips to encourage reading as a family

Strategies for parents to foster literacy skills in their children and strengthen their own literacy skills along the way:

- Ensure your child knows that how well they read or write has nothing to do with their intelligence. Every person is intelligent in their own way and each person is unique and needs to learn in the way that best suits them. With practice, your child will become a good reader.
- The television can be used as a tool. After your child watches a television show or an episode, talk to them about it. Ask them questions like, “What was your favourite part?” or “What was the episode trying to teach the audience?” This reinforces media literacy skills, a medium that is encompassing our lives today.
- Don’t lose sight of the fact that children model behaviour they see. Ensure that your child sees you reading, whether it’s the newspaper, the mail or a recipe. This shows your child how important it is to read.
- While reading a story to your child, pause to ask them what they predict will happen next or have them summarize what has happened in the story thus far. Good readers think about what they are reading and this will reinforce critical thinking skills.
- Today’s children, particularly teens, are influenced by music. Have your child read the lyrics to their favourite song. When your child hears the song, they will visualize the lyrics they read. Visualization is a reading skill and this helps develop the skill.
- All reading is good reading. If your child is a reluctant reader, allow them to read comics, a graphic novel, a magazine or an instruction manual for their favourite sport. They will be introduced to new words, sentence structure, and they will engage their brains with new ideas and information.



- When you are in the mall, grocery store or out for a walk, have your child read signs, posters and flyers. This will enhance their reading skills and teach them to be an active and engaged consumer.
- Families that spend a lot of time in the car can play an audio book and have children follow along with the written book in their hands. You will be surprised how many pages your child can get through in a five-minute car ride. Many libraries have a large collection of audio books.



- Have your child help you make dinner by reading a recipe card. Making them feel like your helper will arm your child with confidence.
- Play board games that involve making words or reading instructions on cards. This highlights to your child that literacy skills connect with everyday activities and reading is fun.
- Watch a movie based on a book. This can inspire your child to read the book because they enjoyed the movie so much. To really enhance critical literacy skills, have your child identify the key differences between the movie and the book.
- The reading process needs to be enjoyable so select books that represent your child's reading ability and not the reading level your child "should" be at. If your child feels like every time they read, they are going to fail or be criticized, they will resist reading.
- Reading aloud helps children develop pace and voice. Have your child read to the family dog, teddy bear or their younger sibling. These are nonthreatening audiences that will help develop your child's confidence.

Developing literacy skills is a task that requires a lot of patience from the parents and the literacy learner. As such, making the process enjoyable for everyone involved can go a long way in alleviating anxiety and opening the doors to developing lifelong literacy skills.

## Books by Tololwa Mollel



Kileken, a boy with extraordinary powers, comes out of nowhere to live with a lonely childless old man.



Saruni saves money to buy something special for the sake of his mother.



Juhudi the rabbit must go to dinner at Leopard's grove. Leopard plans to dine on Juhudi.



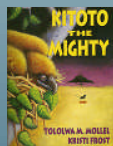
Only a lion's whiskers will enable Tatu to change her troublesome little brother for the better!



A magical song bird takes the girl Mariamu on the journey of her life.



Salome saves the life of a crocodile, but the kind girl can't believe what the wily beast does to repay her.



Hunted Kitoto the mouse searches the universe for the most powerful being to protect her, and is surprised to discover who it is.



A hare enlists the help of bigger animals, and then a no-nonsense frog to drive out a monster from her den

## Other Books

From Lands of the Night (coming Fall 2011!)

The King and the Tortoise

The Princess Who Lost Her Hair

A Promise to the Sun

Ananse's Feast

The Flying Tortoise

Big Boy



**Tololwa Mollel** is a storyteller and performer, and an award winning author of 16 internationally published children's books, many of which have songs or lend themselves to performance. He has also written plays (*Pullyupullus: A promise to the Sun*; *The Flying Tortoise*); and stories for performance. In Tanzania where he was born and in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where he lives, Mollel worked as a university theatre instructor and an actor. He is available for work with schools and libraries, work which includes author presentations, residencies and workshops on storytelling, writing and drama; and for conferences and conventions. Mollel is also available for author virtual visits. Go to Mollel's website for full information about his work and himself. For further details and bookings, contact Tololwa Mollel.

Providing a feast of words-written and spoken-for the eye, the ear and the mind; as well as for the creative imagination, and for performance.

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Storyteller & Performer, Presenter

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# What Tololwa Mollé does

Tololwa Mollé does presentations in schools and libraries and at events, as well as writing and performance workshops and residencies on writing, storytelling, storytelling with drama, and drama, in programs he can adapt for audiences and participants of all ages. Mollé says that he aims in all he does, “to provide a feast of words—written and spoken—for the eye, the ear and the mind; as well as for the creative imagination and for performance.”



## **Presentations**

Mollé does storytelling and readings, demonstrating with examples from his works, the creative process in general and his own in particular. He makes participatory and engaging use of storytelling and songs, for younger students and for older ones, when appropriate.

## **Writing workshops on life stories**

Mollé guides students to shape and share, orally and in writing, life stories based on special and interesting memories from their lives, family and community stories, and stories about acts of giving. To inspire students, Mollé shares orally and in written form, his own personal stories. His hope is to create student anthologies out of their writing.

## **Writing workshop clinics**

In clinics adaptable to grade levels, Mollé imparts to students, within the framework of their own writing projects in progress, revision and editing skills. He also helps students, in small groups or one on one, with elements such as plot, images, characters, and developing creative ideas. He likes to steer older students to avenues for publishing their work in print or online. For younger students, Mollé leads work on group stories, weaving in students' contribution as he points out crucial things about writing.

## **Performance workshops**

**Storytelling:** Mollé shares engaging tales with students, then guides them to retell and perform them. He encourages students to perform for audiences. He encourages older students to perform for younger ones.

**Storytelling with Drama:** In an approach adaptable for all grade levels, Mollé guides students to add drama and theatrical elements to storytelling, with use of minimal elements, re-interpreting tales in their own way, adapting them according to their creative powers.



## **Drama**

Mollé is available for residencies to develop plays based on stories with schools for in-school productions. He is particularly interested to work with junior and senior high school students on plays, based on stories, which they can perform for younger students. He is also happy to adapt his own plays, details of which are on his website, for such work in collaboration with students and teachers.

## **Comments about Mollé's work**

- *“You are the first author that I have booked, thank you for making it such a positive experience for me and the school.”*
- *“The kids were really excited about your visit when I questioned them on Thurs and Fri. They loved your storytelling the best...especially your BIG eyes!!!!”*
- *“My daughter took a 2 day writing workshop at the Bennett Centre, in which you were one of the teachers. I just wanted to let you know that she loved the course, and especially your part of things”*
- *“Thank you again ever so much for coming to visit our school! The students loved your stories, your expressiveness...”*
- *“Your support of the literary arts and young writers in Edmonton Public Schools is greatly appreciated.”*