

A horse is a horse, of course, but is it a boy or girl?

Author/artist delights students at Lehman-Jackson Elementary

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Children's book author and artist John Manders was almost done painting a horse when the debate erupted.

"It's a boy horse!" one Lehman-Jackson Elementary School student — a boy, of course — shouted.

"It's not a boy, it's a girl!" a schoolmate shot back.

"Oh, yeah," Manders said, realizing that, while students had helped decide what he drew as part of a presentation Monday, there had been no mention of the ebon equine's gender. "We don't know if this is a boy or a girl!"

The room quickly erupted in a cacophony of alternate shouts. "Boy!" "Girl!"

"I can see already your teachers are starting to regret sending me that invitation," Manders quipped.

The "invitation" came courtesy of a grant from the Federal Title I program, designed to help students from low-income families, statistically more likely to struggle with reading in school. Manders visited district schools all day. At Lehman-Jackson, students from kindergarten through third grade sat on the floor of the multi-purpose room and listened to him read his book "The Really Awful Musicians," paint the smiling horse, and field questions.

"Do you like color-



CLARK VAN ORDEN | THE TIMES LEADER

John Manders shows K-3 grade students from Lehman-Jackson Elementary School how he goes about painting an illustration like he would use for one of his books.

ing?" one student asked. "Oh yes, very much," Manders replied.

"Can you teach me how?" a girl inquired.

"Well," Manders pondered, "I would have to set up some kind of school."

"Can I keep it?" another girl asked while gazing longingly at the painting on its easel.

A bidding war erupted, with students shouting out offers of \$20, \$100 and \$1,000. Delcia Biscotto, a kindergarten student, made the ultimate offer. "I'll give you infinity dollars!"

Alas, the work was not for sale, even for bottomless dollars. "I'm going to give it to the school," Manders told the crowd.

"What's your favorite color?"

"I love them all. I use all the colors," the artist answered. "If I was just limited to one color, it would be pretty boring."

"I love drawing and coloring," third-grader Quinn Balla confessed.

"Do you draw every day?" Manders asked.

"Almost," Balla answered.

"If you draw every day you may get good enough to do it for a living," he advised.

"How many days does it take to learn to draw a horse?"

"I'm still learning," Manders admitted. "Horses are hard. You've got to do a lot of work if you want to get good at it."

"The horse needs a beard!" one boy blurted out.

"I'm not going to put a beard on the horse!" Manders said to loud laughter.

Of course not. That would presumably give away the gender.

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH Council gets update on floating wetlands

SUSAN BETTINGER
Dallas Post Correspondent

Princeton Hydro's Dr. Fred Lubnow gave an update on plans for the floating wetland islands at the Nov. 19 Harveys Lake Borough Council meeting.

Lubnow said that the five islands, which will be beneficial for the lake as they remove harmful nutrients and phosphorus, will be installed in the spring. Lubnow also said that beginning in January, public announcements will be planned which will describe in detail all information concerning the islands, as well as address any concerns that the residents may have.

Jason Miller, of Queen of Peace Road, asked Lubnow why certain areas were chosen as sites for the islands. Lubnow explained that the areas are ones that contain high levels of phosphorous and are areas of easement,

such as locations where there are no underground utilities located on them. Lubnow further added that there are often complications when getting permits from PennDOT. "Penn Dot has the right to remove any structures put on their roads," Lubnow said.

The first reading of the Harveys Lake 2014 budget includes no tax rate

increase. The borough is reported to be operating "in the black" going into the new year. Preliminary numbers also indicate that the garbage fees will be reduced, based on a new agreement. The final numbers will be determined in December, when the final budget is approved.

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