Children's book author visits local students, mentors creativity

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Deborah Nourse Lattimore, author of more than 30 children's books, talks to students at the Sullivan's Elementary School, May 4. She is on a tour of several school in the region helping students create their own books and learn about reading, writing and illustrating in books.

Deborah Nourse Lattimore, author and illustrator of children's books, visited students at The Sullivan's Elementary School on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, May 4.

She works with schools to put on classes or demonstrations, teaching kids how to make and illustrate a book, how books get published and how to make meaningful pictures for stories.

"I started working with Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Schools in 1990," she said. "I have visited students all over Europe and other places like Bahrain but, this is my first trip to Japan."

Lattimore teaches children about story development and art direction allowing the students to create their own mini-book.

"I show them that there is a relationship between written words and art, how they can use both to add to a story," said Lattimore. "It introduces them to fun of creating and the responsibility of making it all fit together into a story."

Lattimore's books feature stories and topics uncommon to children's literature. She has books on ancient Egypt, cultural folk tales, and Asian mysticism. She also paints the pictures for her books. She has over thirty books in print and several of them can be found on book shelves in the schools.The students commented that Lattimore's unique drawing and painting style made her books standout in the library.

"It's been really fun. I like that she tells you about new stuff. I haven't heard of these stories before and she shows you new things," said second-grade student Mia Forsythe. "I've made my own little books before but, now I think I can make more new ones."

While working with the students to create their own four page books, she discussed a basic outline and then allowed the students to take the story in any direction they wanted. She helped them understand that stories have a beginning, middle and end.

"If you asked about conflict resolution, you might not see a lot of hands go up," said Lattimore. "But, if you explain how a story works, how the different parts work together to tell a complete idea, all the students will get it. If they understand how it all works that gives them he opportunity to become better readers and writers."

Lattimore is scheduled to visit other schools in the region before returning to her home in the United States.

"These [DoDEA] students are wonderful. They have such a great experience with other cultures, it really is a special kind of learning environment," said Lattimore. "Of course I want to come back and visit the students here in Japan again."

NAVSUP announces lithium battery mailing prohibited by USPS

By Debbie Dortch, NAVSUP Corporate Communications

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. (NNS) -- Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), which oversees Navy postal operations, announced May 11, it is providing guidance to the fleet about new United States Postal Service (USPS) prohibitions regarding lithium batteries.

According to the USPS announcement, beginning May 16, mail to or from APOs/FPOs are prohibited from containing lithium or products containing lithium.

The prohibition also applies to international mail. The prohibition is in effect pending further USPS review of investigations for safety.

"Customers should understand that postal clerks at these locations have been instructed to question patrons and check customs labels for any declarations of lithium batteries or electronic equipment to determine whether lithium batteries are in the shipment," said NAVSUP Navy Postal Subject Matter Expert Tom Rittle. "Upon identification of packages containing lithium batteries, customers will have the option to remove the batteries or not mail the package."

The prohibition applies regardless of quantity, size, watt-hours, and whether the cells or batteries are packed in equipment, with equipment, or without equipment.

For more information about the prohibition, see USPS Postal Bulletin 22336 at http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22336/pdf/pb22336.pdf.

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NAVSUP/Navy Supply Corps' diverse team of more than 25,000 civilian and military personnel oversee a diverse portfolio including supply chain management for material support to Navy, Marine Corps, joint and coalition partners, supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, security assistance, and quality of life issues for our naval forces, including food service, postal services, Navy Exchanges, and movement of household goods.

The NAVSUP/Navy Supply Corps team forms a vast network of professionals who deliver unparalleled products and services to customers in the Fleet and across the world.