

**ALBANY CITY SCHOOL 16**  
**41 N. ALLEN ST.**  
**ALBANY, NY 12203**  
**(518) 438-2522**  
***KIMBERLEY YOUNG WILKINS, PRINCIPAL***

May 30, 2001

Dear Ruth,

Thank you so much for kicking off School 16's William Kennedy Junior Writers' Week last week. Your two performances really touched our students.

Your enthusiasm for singing and energy are contagious. When the kindergarten class came to the library later in the day, they asked if we could sing along to your tape again. Several of our teachers remarked how much they and their students enjoyed your performance. And today in the hall a fourth-grader student said how much he liked the song "All Cleaned Up".

One of the purposes of our Junior Writers' Week is to encourage our students to celebrate their own unique creative spirit of writing. I think you opened the eyes of our students to the possibilities of song-writing. You demonstrated how you used the well-known melody of "Frere Jacques" and wrote your own words to the tune. Writers are always told to write what they know about. You talked about the situations that led you to write "All Cleaned Up", "Under One Sky", and "Rainbow Round Me". Teachers remarked how you spoke to the children on their level.

I also think your discussion of your song-writing about everyday things will take away some of the "fear" students have for creative writing. I think you left the students with the impression that you can make a song anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

Thank you again for beginning our Writers' Week on such a cheerful note.

Sincerely,

*Donna Gwin*  
Donna Gwin, Librarian

# *Sacred Heart School*

*"A Spirit-Filled School Where Quality Counts"*



*310 Spring Avenue  
Troy, New York 12180  
518-274-3655*

*February 15, 2001*

*Dear Ruth,*

*What a wonderful experience we had last night at our Music Mobile School Concert!!  
The children were so enthused and proud of their performances.*

*The individual class workshops were such a treat for our students. Even parents spoke  
of your patience, enthusiasm and creativity. We particularly enjoyed your song, "Under  
One Sky"; it quickly became a favorite to sing at our daily school assembly.*

*I was amazed at your ability to engage all age levels - -during the workshops and at the  
concert. You are a one-woman sound machine!*

*Thank you for taking the time to share your talents and energy with us. We hope you  
will come back to visit again. Good luck in your future endeavors.*

*Sincerely,*

Handwritten signature of Susan K. Holland.

*Susan K. Holland  
Principal*