

Humberview's Writing Centre will soon open for students

After almost a year of planning, the Writing Centre at Humberview Secondary School will officially open May 1 with a keynote address by noted Canadian author Noah Richler.

Of his previous time spent at the school, Richler wrote: "I still have terrific memories of your bright bunch and welcome. It was one of the early highlights of a year's touring *What We Talk About When We Talk About War*."

Richler, the son of Canadian literary icon Mordecai Richler, is a respected journalist, editor and producer. He has contributed to numerous publications in Canada, including *The Walrus*, *Maisonneuve*, *Saturday Night*, *Toronto Star*, and *The Globe and Mail*. Richler is married to House of Anansi publisher, Sarah MacLachlan.

The Writing Centre is designed to support students in critical, effective, and creative writing in all disciplines and post-secondary destinations. Open during student lunch periods, with an extensive collection of writing and reference guides to support a wide variety of writing styles, the Writing Centre is a student-centred resource. While staff may refer students for specific assistance, the Centre is designed to provide a space where students can access resources, instruction and technology to support their writing in ways that meet their unique needs and interests.

Writers in the Room is one of the noteworthy initiatives of the Writing Centre. Students will have the opportunities to learn and network with visiting authors through workshops and special events.

Humberview has been privileged to have both Lawrence Hill and Richler preview or release their works at the school. These events allowed students not only the opportunity to meet respected Canadian authors and learn about the content of their works, but also the writing process itself.

"We are creating a new space with the Writing Centre," commented Principal Rick Tredwell, "where students can further develop effective and creative communication skills, so integral to learning and working in the twenty-first century."

While common at post-secondary institutions, the Writing Centre is one of the first of its kind in the Peel District School Board. Staffing and initial funding has been provided through a Student Success - Learning to 18 allocation. Further funding has been provided by the Rotary Club of Bolton.