

SuperSibs gets money from Middle School South

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A sea of Lake Zurich Middle School South students in yellow T-shirts that stated "Drumming up support for SuperSibs," gasped as author Jordan Sonnenblick announced at an assembly Friday he recently completed the sequel to *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*.

Every student in the school read Sonnenblick's book as part of its "One Book, One School" initiative. The book is about a teenager facing life knowing his little brother is suffering from cancer. The sequel, *After Ever After*, takes place nine years after the first book.



Author Jordan Sonnenblick talks about his life and his book *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* with Lake Zurich Middle School South students during a visit to the school.

(Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)



Author Jordan Sonnenblick (left) listens to eighth-grade student Jake Gadomski, 13, of Kildeer introduce him at Lake Zurich Middle School South. Sonnenblick wrote *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* about a boy dealing with his brother's

leukemia. Gadomski was diagnosed with leukemia but is now cancer free.

(Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)

The school presented Sonnenblick with a check for \$5,000 to donate to SuperSibs, an organization Sonnenblick supports that provides free, direct comfort and care programs to siblings of children with cancer. They raised the money through selling T-shirts, similar to the one pictured on the cover of Sonnenblick's book, and a few events, including a charity volleyball game two weeks ago.

Jake Gadomski, an eighth-grader at MSS, shared his story with Sonnenblick and students at the assembly. Gadomski was diagnosed with leukemia on March 5, 2004. Five surgeries and three years of chemotherapy later, he is finished with treatment, but still remembers what it was like for his little brother, Matt Gadomski, who was only five years old when Jake Gadomski was diagnosed.

"SuperSibs sent him gifts every week," Jake Gadomski told the crowd.

"I'm really thrilled that you guys chipped in and did so much," Sonnenblick told the students and teachers after being presented with the check, adding that MSS raised the most money of any of the schools he has been to.

Sonnenblick shared that he wrote *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* for Emily, a student in his eighth grade honors English class. When he learned Emily's younger brother had cancer, he promised her mother he would find a book that would help Emily talk about what she was going through, but he couldn't find anything. When he couldn't find a book to help his student, he decided to write one.

"I wrote *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* for one kid," Sonnenblick said. "I wrote it for one kid because I care about her."

He added it is a bonus that so many other kids enjoyed the book as well.