

SHARP Literacy unveils 'Discover Waukesha' book

School children helped create book focused on area's diversity, heritage

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WAUKESHA — If you ask the average Wisconsinite how diverse they think Waukesha, or its roots, might be, chances are their response will be “not very.”

A group of area school children is hoping to dispel that misconception, however, with a book they helped to publish with the help of SHARP Literacy.

Written by University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Professor Pilar Melero, illustrated by Sarah Gail Luther, and researched by over 200 third-grade students from five Waukesha County schools, “Discover Waukesha” provides young readers with a

whimsical look into the city's history.

In the story, four Waukesha students and a teacher explore Waukesha — from the Fox River to Frame Park — uncovering countless fascinating facts and attention-grabbing information about notable people, places and events that are an integral part of the city's past.

The text, which will be used by third-graders this school year as part of SHARP'S educational program, introduces students to famous Waukesha natives like guitarist and inventor Les Paul, as well as lesser-known people like Caroline Quarlls, who was aided by Waukesha residents as she bravely traveled the Underground Rail-

road to freedom.

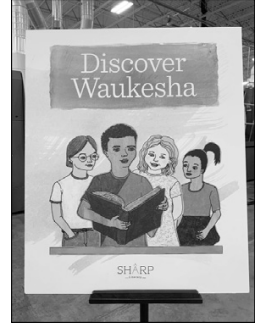
The book also takes a historic look at the peoples of Waukesha, from the first Native American settlers and European immigrants to today's diverse population.

“Our 15th ‘We Love to Learn’ book ... does so many things. It shines a light on diversity and cultural traditions, showcases individual (Waukesha residents) and historic sites, and takes the reader on an inspirational journey through Waukesha's many close-knit neighborhoods,” SHARP Literacy President/CEO Lynda Kohler said. “Through this story, students will develop a deeper understanding of their communities and their residents, and ultimately discover their own Waukesha.”



Submitted photos

Waukesha students hold up copies of “Discover Waukesha” at Quad/Graphics this month. The students helped to research the book through a SHARP Literacy program.



A poster for the SHARP Literacy book “Discover Waukesha” is displayed at Quad/Graphics earlier this month. Waukesha elementary students helped to research the book, which aims to educate students about the city's history as well as its diversity.

Faces of Waukesha

The book was presented earlier this month at Quad/Graphics, right around the same time its companion art project “Caras de Waukesha” or “Faces of Waukesha” was unveiled at Frame Park.

Designed by Mexican-

American artist Alberto Villalobos and Waukesha native Paul Mattek, founder of Milwaukee-based firm Design Fugitives, the sculpture uses a series of ceramic masks to celebrate the Latino immigrant experience here, with each mask

representing a separate generation of immigrants. The masks are displayed via a four-sided totem-like sculpture that features Waukesha-themed cutouts designed by students from Banting and Summit View Elementary schools.