

What on earth!



Staff/Laura Moon

Brooklyn Wright, 7, shows off her newly written book, 'The Adventures of the Earth Saver Girl,' at her Powder Springs home. In addition to the book, Wright also created a website of information regarding littering and recycling, games and an opportunity to sign a pledge to not become a litterbug.

Powder Springs girl a published author at age 7

By Kathryn Dobies
kdobies@mdjonline.com

POWDER SPRINGS — At age 7, Brooklyn Wright of Powder Springs is already a published author and an environmental activist, trying to rid the earth of litter.

In her colorful, self-published book, "The Adventures of the Earth Saver Girl: Don't be a Litterbug," the soon-to-be third grader teaches kids the detrimental effects littering can have on the earth, and urges them to dispose of trash responsibly.

Brooklyn says her story began when she noticed trash on the side of roads in her neighborhood, at school and at the parks.

"I saw trash everywhere and it was ugly, and I found out it was bad for

When Brooklyn complained to her mom, Kelly Wright, about the trash, Kelly urged her daughter to do research online and find out its effects on the earth, and then do something about it, other than just tell her friends to pick up their own trash.

"I got tired of her complaining to me about this trash and cigarette butts, and 'eww, it's ugly,'" Kelly said. "And so I said, what are you going to do about it? And she'd say, 'I'd try telling people to pick it up,' and 'I'd say, well, you can't just tell them to pick it up.'"

Inspired by the Earth Saver Club at her school, Brooklyn began writing.

Brooklyn says it took her about six months to write the 20-page paperback book. In the meantime, she

year-old girl, named Layla, coincidentally the name of Brooklyn's step-sister. She infused other characters from her life, using her father's name for a character and her uncle Alfred's name for the litterbug. While her mother did help Brooklyn with a few ideas, Kelly insists that the main characters and ideas came from Brooklyn.

Kelly also researched an illustrator for the book, finding Zhu Hui Hui through a cousin, to bring Earth Saver Girl to life through pictures.

In the book, Layla finds out on her ninth birthday that she is Earth Saver Girl, a superhero whose mission is to teach kids not to litter. Layla is given a special machine and powers that tell her the biggest litterbugs in her community. When she finds out she

Author

Continued from Page 1B

the worst culprits is her cousin, she sets out to teach him to stop.

Brooklyn says the point of her story is to not only to teach kids to stop littering, but to explain to them in fun ways why it hurts the earth.

"I want them to learn 'do not litter' because it's bad for the earth," Brooklyn said. "Kids do not know that. So if they don't know that they'll just keep on doing it. And when they learn, they'll stop."

In the process of publishing the book, Kelly, a web developer, decided to start a website not only to promote the book, but also to offer kids a fun place online to learn about the earth and play anti-littering interactive games.

Soon the book was selling on the Earth Saver Girl website, and on Thursday it was released on Amazon.com. Although Kelly says they won't learn how many copies it has sold until it has been on the website for 30 days, she does know that it is selling, since it has risen in the popularity rankings on Amazon. The list price for the softcover book is \$6.49. Kelly also says she has received inquiries from Harper Collins Publishers about the book, and will most likely sell the rights to the book to a larger publishing company.

Brooklyn's teacher at Austell Intermediate, Jane Zellers, said she is not at all surprised that one of her star



Staff/Laura Moon

Seven-year-old Brooklyn Wright of Powder Springs visits her website that she created in addition to writing her book, 'The Adventures of the Earth Saver Girl,' which took her six months to write.

students authored a book, but did admit she was impressed by its length and detail.

"I thought the book was really cute. I was shocked by how long it is with the dialogue and all," Zellers said. "Because normally kids at her age aren't interested in writing something that detailed."

Brooklyn scored perfectly on the reading portion of her CRCT test this spring, something her mom was so proud of that she framed the results and put them up in her daughter's room.

Zellers said Brooklyn had told her she was working on the book with her mom, and then the last week of school she brought it in to read to the class.

"They thought it was really neat," Zellers said of Brooklyn's classmate's reaction to her book. "They were wanting their own copy of it ... It is a neat thing for parents and teachers to use to teach kids about the environment."

This summer, Brooklyn will be reading her book to several summer camps in the Cobb area, and holding a launch party in Powder Springs on July 24. Brooklyn will also be reading the book at the Cobb NAACP's Juneteenth Festival on June 19, and marching in Marietta's Fourth of July Parade as Earth Saver Girl with Keep Marietta Beautiful.

Brooklyn said when she began writing the book she had no idea it would

become this big, but is happy to share her story and wants to inspire other kids to write their own books.

But Kelly says she always knew Brooklyn had it in her to be a successful author.

"I always think the best of a project," Kelly said. "So I was thinking this could be big ... When stuff comes this easy you think, OK, maybe it's meant to be — the name of it, and the little slogan and everything."

As for her future career, Brooklyn plans to co-author a book with a friend about girls playing sports, and is already planning the next adventure for Earth Saver Girl, about a pooper-scooper.