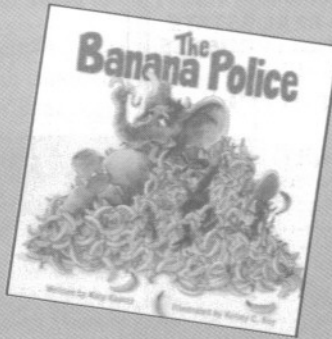


KJDS Goes Bananas!

When we first got wind of Katy Koontz and her new children's book, *The Banana Police*, we got so excited thinking about all of the fun we could have! Katy Koontz is an award-winning freelance writer, author, and editor who specializes in women's health (both mind and body), spirituality, travel, and lifestyles. She writes trend stories, service articles, and first-person essays—in addition to doing ghostwriting, editing, and book doctoring. You can find out more about Katy at www.katykoontz.com.

Her book, *The Banana Police*, is about a sweet little town, deep in the jungle, where people happily co-exist with elephants, that is until the townspeople become increasingly annoyed with their lovable, lumpy, neighbors. After all, they snore loudly, hog the best seats at the movies, and block all the aisles in the supermarket. Who needs that? When the Mayor calls on the Elephant Police to devise a clever scheme to get the elephants to leave, the town ends up buried in all the extra bananas the beasts usually eat. The Mayor then calls on the Banana Police to deal with the bananas, but it's the townspeople themselves who finally get rid of them. The unspoken message is about the value of peaceful co-existence and cooperation between inherently different groups.

Katy and the book's illustrator, Kelsey Roy, visited KJDS and shared their love for writing and illustrating. To celebrate *The Banana Police*, our students ate bananas, participated in tons of banana activities throughout the day, and created crazy banana videos with their families that can be seen on our Facebook page. If you haven't liked us yet on Facebook, you're missing out!



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Going Out On a Roll!

The last Kids Night Out of the year consisted of two very fun events. The Rolling Video Games truck and Purim fun with our BBYO counselors!

The Rolling Video Games truck pulled up to school with tons of games for kids to play with their friends. Most popular were *Mario Cart Wii* and *Wii Olympics*. When the kids were not inside the truck playing games, they were making hamantaschen and "cups of dirt" with gummy worms, and playing games. It was a fantastic night for all!



(Right) Inside the rolling video games truck playing Wii games.

(Below) Mmmm, cups of dirt.



(Right) Making hamantaschen

