

## Award-Winning Author to Visit Newton Middle Schools

Excitement is building for a visit from author Roland Smith of Portland, Oregon. Mr. Smith was a zookeeper for over 20 years and has worked with animals all over the world. His experience with animals provides great material for his numerous national and state award-winning adventure novels. His book *Elephant Run* is a nominee for the 2010 Kansas William Allen White award. In a video clip on his website, Mr. Smith states, "Everything that has happened to me in my life that is good, came from my ability to read books." Visit his website at [www.rolandsmith.com](http://www.rolandsmith.com) for further information.

The author presentations will be on November 9th and 10th at the Fox Theater and Chishom Middle School. Parents are welcome to attend. A few lucky students will be chosen to join Mr. Smith for an informal lunch. He will also be available to autograph books at the Santa Fe media center beginning at 2:45 pm.

Students prepared for Roland Smith's visit by researching about the author's life and reading his books. The information gathered from the research was then used to write a brief introduction welcoming Roland Smith. A student from each grade will formally introduce the author at each presentation. Students also used their critical thinking skills to develop thoughtful, probing questions for the author.

Author visits encourage reading and reinforce our school improvement goals. It is a wonderful tradition to have authors visit our schools. These visits are made possible by revenues generated by sales at the annual book fairs and donations from school PTO's. Special thanks goes to Don Suderman and the Fox Theater for the use of the historic facility for this special educational event.