

## Local Girl Writes Prophecy

By Alec Evans, Jenna Rasmussen & Victoria Reynolds

Michelle Zink, gothic author of *Prophecy of the Sister*, visited Hillside Middle School. She had a Q&A session on her book and writing.

One day, she quit her job, and moved to New York. She read a book and remembered her passion. "I want to be a writer," she said. When asked what inspired her, she responded, "Reading transported me to a whole other world, and so did writing, I wanted to give that feeling back to my readers.

Zink wrote a book of "90,000 words that kind of made sense." She went out to find an agent. Two agents responded; one said, "I love it; let's send it off right away." The second replied, "It's strong, but not strong enough." Zink went with the first agent. They sent her book off to many publishers. In the six month time period, Michelle wrote three other books. The publishers slowly responded; there were no takers. Zink was devastated. Her second book was also considered dead. She began to look for a new agent. Surprisingly the second agent replied again and said, "It's strong, but not strong enough." Michelle accepted his criticisms and began the editing process. It took three months to write the book, ten to edit it.

Michelle has already written a sequel to the *Prophecy of the Sisters*, titled *Guardian of the Gate*. It is planned to be released next year. She is currently working on *Book of Chaos*, the third in the series. Her advice to students was, "Always fight for your right to be who you are."

## Michelle Zinc Inspires Hillside Students.

- by Dylan Soller , Reily Haag, Sam Sampinos Ben Theurer, Taehun Park,

Michelle Zinc, the writer of *The Prophecy of the Sisters*, visited Hillside Middle School Wednesday, September 21, 2009. She presented the engaging story of her life growing up in Utah and moving to California. She had a good job, but hated it, so she moved to New York to pursue a career in writing. During her visit to Hillside Middle School she promoted her book. She explained her inspiration for her book and how it was published.

Michelle said that when she was a young girl she loved to read and write, but when she got a job in California she didn't have time to read. After she quit her job and moved to New York, she started reading and writing again. That is when she became a writer.

Her first book was just thrown together, but she was happy she finished it. She sent it to a few agents and two replied; one loved it, and the other one said it needed work. Of course she went with the first agent, but the book didn't sell. When she wrote her fifth book the same thing happened, but she went with the second agent. After months of revisions the publisher accepted the book, and it sold.

Michelle came to Utah to advertise her book, but she also made friends here.

She taught students to have their own ideas, pursue their dreams, and not become slaves to their peers parents or others.

## **NY AUTHOR VISITS HILLSIDE**

by Kate Park, Margaret Watkins, and Natalia Baykova

Michelle Zink, author of Prophecy of the Sisters, visited Hillside Middle School on September 23. She informed Hillside Language Arts students about her life and her writing career. She accentuated the importance of being who you are, not what everyone else wants you to be.

Zink began her presentation by telling about her childhood. After she graduated from college, she found a job in California. One day she decided she was not happy with her life, so she dropped everything and moved with her family to a small town in New York.

Now that Zink had much more spare time, she wrote a book. She found an enthusiastic agent. No one would publish the book, but she kept writing, and was determined to get her fifth book published. She switched agents, and this second agent said that her book was a good first draft. His first criticism letter was 15 pages long! After 10 months of editing (compared to 3 months of writing), her gothic fantasy book, Prophecy of the Sisters, was finally published. It is about twin sisters who discover a mystical prophecy and are turned against each other because of it. She is now expanding it to be a trilogy.

Zink's main message to Hillside students was to be ourselves, not what other people expect of us. She encouraged us to shine as individuals.