

The KAUST Kindergarten was particularly lucky this year when we had the opportunity to bring both Laura Wall and Charlie Ranken for a joint school visit. Having both of them here at KAUST allowed us to offer a highly unique and balanced program which supported the physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development of our youngest students. The program combined Laura's creative story writing and illustrative flair with Charlie's performance talents and understanding of early childhood development.

Throughout the week, our students engaged in a variety of programs with Laura and Charlie. With Laura's workshops, students participated in storytime, were guided in generating original story ideas, and created original illustrations. With Charlie's workshops, students also participated in storytime, then worked together to connect Laura's stories to physical expression and created a unique performance. The children were even able to engage with Laura and Charlie in some combined settings where they learned more about Laura and Charlie, engaged in large group song, movement, and symbolic gestures, and shared learnings from their workshops.

Working with both Laura and Charlie has been a rewarding and eye-opening experience. It is clear that these two professionals are extremely passionate about the work they do, and are conscientious about the quality of their programs. They were professional and timely in communication and planning, and very flexible to adjust to our school's needs without compromising the value of their program. Both Laura and Charlie are wonderfully kind people, and a pleasure to work with.

Candace Taylor-Weber  
Librarian  
The KAUST School Kindergarten