**Here are some of David’s favorite introductions. Please feel free to use or adapt—or just use as inspiration for something entirely original.**

By Camille Johnson, Teacher,

At Fammatre Elementary School, SAN JOSE, CA, January 17, 2008

Once there was a boy named David Schwartz who loved numbers. David loved ALL numbers. He loved the number 8. He loved the number 47. He loved the number 142. He even loved the number 43 ½. However, David’s favorite number was one million. David knew how to write the number one million, but he did not understand what the number realty meant. He had many questions about one million. For example: How long would it take to count to one million? And: How big would a fish tank need to be, to hold a million goldfish?

David thought about these questions for a long time. Then when David was a grown-up, he figured out the answers to his questions and put all of his answers in a book. He called the book *How Much Is a Million?* Later, David wrote other books about numbers and even about science. Now David Schwartz is with us today and he will share his love of numbers, science and writing with us.

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By David J. Whiten, Wayne State University

At National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, April 1999

The most important thing about David M. Schwartz is not that he was an elementary school teacher. It is not that he is a magazine journalist who has written for many publications, including *Smithsonian*, on an amazingly diverse range of topics including hippopotamus communication, the pollination of flowers, mountain bikes, weather vanes, reading aloud to children, and the science of cooking. The most important thing about David is not the lengthy, and growing, list of wonderful books for children that he has authored, including *How Much is a Million?, If You Made a Million, G Is for Googol, If You Hopped Like a Frog, If Dogs Were Dinosaurs,* the *Look Once, Look Again* science series and other science books such as *Q Is for Quark, Where in the Wild?* and *Where Else in the Wild?*

For me, the most important thing about David Schwartz is his wonder of the world. He has never lost that childlike wonder at the things about us, whether immense, minuscule or in-between. That’s why he’s such a good writer. He still marvels at the magnitude of our solar system, the interdependence of our ecosystems, the beauty and pattern of our world.

So help me in welcoming David M. Schwartz, whose talk today is called

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By Kathy Holderith,

At Colorado Council of International Reading Association, February 9, 2009

David Schwartz is an author, former teacher and a presenter who invites children of all ages to ask BIG QUESTIONS- Why? Much how? Where? and to observe the world around them, to ponder and to look at science and mathematics in new and dramatic ways.

Even as a young child growing up in New York, he contemplated the mysteries of the universe, even while riding his bike or eating ice cream.

In 1985, he published his first book (*How Much is a Million?*) and it has now sold over a million copies. Since then, he has published 50 more books that explore of the fields of math and science.

He loves children and speaking. In his presentations he challenges and inspires them to develop a sense of wonder and to learn to think “out of the box”.

It is my privilege to introduce David Schwartz to you.

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By Gerry Varty,

At NCTM Canadian Regional Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, Nov 20, 2003

How many of you were once children?

Did you ever look up at the night sky and wonder how many stars were up there? Did you hear a little voice saying “There must be a *million* of them”?

That little voice was David Schwartz.

Did you ever look at a forest, then a tree, then a branch, then a leaf, then the veins, then the cells? Did you hear the little voice wonder if “there were even more levels beneath that”?

That was David, too.

Did you ever watch an ant, trying to carry away your picnic one piece at a time, and marvel at the strength of that tiny insect compared to its own size? Did the little voice ask “If I were an ant, how much could I lift”?

Yep. David again.

As David grew up, he was fascinated by things near and far, by the vast and the tiny; he pondered the size of the universe, the distances between spatial bodies, and yet was equally intrigued by the world below the magnifying glass or microscope. He found math and science in the world around him, and wrestled with numbers that could describe what he saw and could give meaning to the wonderment he felt. He wondered at relativity – compared to the universe, he was so small, and yet compared to the world under the microscope, he was relatively huge. How could he be both at the same time?

As an adult, through a career that included lumberjack, highway-crew line painter, and elementary school teacher, David rode his beloved bicycle through the world with a sense of wonder at those questions that live inside of all kids (and inside a few lucky adults). We are indeed fortunate that he decided to write books and stories that would captivate and infect our children with that same sense of wonder.

His first book, “How much is a Million”, came out in 1985, and is the classic book on big numbers. Other favourites include “G is for Google: A Math Alphabet book”, and “Q is for Quark: A Science Alphabet book”, as well as his latest adventure “If You Hopped like a Frog” … he writes for adults, too, and has published many articles and stories in Smithsonian magazine.

There is a whole school of thought that deals with the effects of story and metaphor in moving beyond fact and into understanding. An offshoot of that research examines the effect of stories being discussed, pondered, questioned and affirmed until they once again return to fact, but somehow fact that has gained an irrefutable quality of reverence for the experience.

We call this wisdom.

Those fortunate to share his love of science and numbers can surely agree that David is a remarkable teacher – his stories provide a framework for using and understanding math and science in our lives, and in the midst of re-discovering the childlike wonder that we all once knew, we all become wiser for the experience.

That is David’s true gift, and one that we are fortunate to share this cold morning in Edmonton.

Please join me in giving a warm Alberta welcome to David Schwartz.