

Writing for a cause



Senior Kate Caballero brought her vision to life with senior Livia Gross in hopes of bringing light to a isolating and painful condition.

For Kate Caballero, eczema was something she had to deal with her whole life. This often painful condition often led to feelings of isolation for Kate, since she had to miss many events and activities. But instead of letting eczema define her, she turned her experience into something meaningful: a children's book aimed at helping kids embrace their skin and feel confident despite their struggles.

Determined to make her message as impactful as possible, Kate partnered with her close friend Livia Gross, an artist with a passion for storytelling through illustrations. Together, they brought the book to life—Kate writing from personal experience and Livia visually capturing the emotions behind it.

"My ultimate goal with creating this book was for children to be comfortable in their own skin. I didn't want eczema to be something children were ashamed of having; I wanted children to see the light in such a isolating condition," Caballero said.

The book not only aimed to normalize eczema but also encourage conversations about self-acceptance. Livia, who had always been drawn to art as a way of

expression, wanted to illustrate Kate's story in a way that would resonate with young readers.

"Being able to help Kate bring her vision to life was such a great experience. I enjoyed creating this book in a colorful way and having kids be mesmerized by the bright colors. I teach children art in my free time so this was a very freeing project," Gross said.

The pair spent most of their junior year and summer writing and designing the book. Balancing their school and personal commitments wasn't easy, but they were determined to create something that would make an impact.

"It was a true passion project. I was so excited to see the final outcome that the more we worked on it, the more inspired I became," Caballero said.

Their efforts didn't go unnoticed. Teachers and peers praised the work they both put forth.

"I think more than anything, I'm just super proud to see that my students take what they learn in my classes outside of class to participate in different projects, such as this book, which is fantastic," Visual Arts Teacher Maribel Toledo said.

STORY BY ALEXIS ACOSTA

