

Speaker opens BCS students' eyes

BY ANGELA FICHERA
C & G STAFF WRITER

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — To give Birmingham Covington third- and fourth-grade students some real life perspective on Helen Keller's life, teacher Deb Woodman invited friend and former co-worker Peter Zaremba to speak about what it is like to be visually impaired.

"I used to work with Peter at the Oakland Intermediate School District and he was an amazing individual," said Woodman. "So,

when my students started to read Helen Keller, I thought it would be a great opportunity for them to see that visually impaired individuals are just like they are in that they deal with some of the same life issues with friends and so on."

Zaremba, who currently works for the Oakland Intermediate School District as a technical support specialist, was more than happy to talk with the BCS students. He answered questions and spoke to about 50 students Jan. 10.

"I really enjoyed talking to the

students. Their enthusiasm to learn about blind people, and the alternative techniques blind people use to complete daily living activities, was very refreshing," said Zaremba. "The students asked questions about how a blind person reads a book, uses a computer and gets to

work. I urged the students to place themselves in the blind person's shoes and think of some ways they might accomplish the above tasks without sight."

According to both Zaremba and Woodman, this kind of interaction is great and helps the students

learn that blind people are ordinary folks who have developed some alternative methods to complete the same tasks as sighted people.

"I think it really made the kids think," said Woodman.

You can reach Angela Fichera at afichera@candgnews.com



Photo provided

Peter Zaremba talks to Birmingham Covington School third- and fourth-graders about what life is like as a visually impaired person Jan. 10.