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Family Poetry Night



On Thursday, November 15th, 5th graders in Room 17 celebrated **Family Poetry Night!** Twenty-six of the 28 families in Mrs. Saldaña's class gathered in the evening to share food, fun, and poems.

Tables were laden with poetry books, word cards for folks to "build" their own poems, and crayons and markers to inspire creativity.



After the potluck meal, the students treated their parents to a reprise of their assembly performance about different types of poetry, and then adults and children alike read poems — original and by favorite authors. Poems were read in English, Spanish, and Chinese!



At the end of the night, each family took home a Room 17 Poetry Book filled with poems written by the students. A good time was had by all, and they are already looking forward to the Spring Family Science Night.

All of this started at the beginning of the year, when Mrs. Saldaña read *Love That Dog*, by Sharon Creech, aloud to the class. The novel tells the story

of a boy named Jack who doesn't want to try poetry writing at the beginning of the year. His teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, works patiently with Jack, and Jack comes to appreciate the power of poetry as he writes about his dog's death. By the end of the year, Jack is a huge poetry fan. The students really related to the character and were inspired by his poems to write their own.

They also have written their own pieces with our poet-in-residence who works with each 5th grade class once a week for eight sessions. She has opened their minds and hearts to the power of simile, metaphor, and vivid language.

As the students themselves said of poetry:

It makes sense to yourself!

It's fun!

It's boring.

It's painting pictures with words.

It's words from the heart.

It's sharing feelings

It is a way of expressing yourself!

It's different from chapter books

Poems rhyme!

Poems don't have to rhyme!

We are very proud of these 5th grade poets and we look forward to seeing their future works of literary art!

— Staff

