

Dear Parents,

Beginning next week our class will be starting a poetry project that will continue for the school year. Students will be reading, writing, memorizing and sharing poetry on a weekly basis. We will be having a guest teacher in our classroom once a week to assist with the presentation of our poetry exploration.

Poetry is a mandated part of the elementary curriculum and ongoing research shows that poetry not only enriches learning outcomes but it also motivates children to read and builds essential skills like vocabulary, fluency, expression and writing. In the classroom poetry promotes literacy, helps build community and fosters emotional resilience.

A final objective of bringing poetry into our classroom is for the pure enjoyment poetry brings. We will not analyze and deconstruct. We will look for poems that wake us up, fill us with joy, sadness or delight. Forget the ones that don't seem to make sense but we will find those poems that communicate with the deepest parts of our being.

As part of this study we would ask that students bring in any poetry books they already own and are willing to share. Please clearly label these books so that they will be returned. We ask that each student bring in a binder that will become a poetry journal and writing management tool. This does not have to be new and can have writing on it, as we will be covering it. If one cannot be found the school will provide one. This too will be returned filled with meaningful writing and wonderful art. The final request would be that each student bring in a preschool photo that will become a part of this study.

In the spring we plan to have a "Poetea" sharing party and hope you will join us for this. More information will be sent home at a later date.

Thank you for helping us make this a fun and positive learning experience for your child.

Sincerely,