

6th Grade Poetry Slam

By Ms. Annette

On June 10th 12 students from the sixth grade attended the 2015 Writing Matter's Poetry Slam, this year held at Baruch College! The annual event provides NYC middle school students with the opportunity to perform their original work to an audience of their peers, Writing Matters curriculum facilitators and partners, teachers, and Carlos Andres Gomez (an internationally known Master Poet, author, and actor).

Once schools arrive at the event, student poets begin in smaller rooms with audiences of one-four other schools. The poets perform their work and all fellow students vote anonymously to select six semi-finalists. Semi-finalists each have a final chance to give their best performance and a final vote is cast to select one finalist. In the end, five finalists (one from each room) share the spotlight of performing their work in front of all attendees (100-200 people) and receiving a recognition plaque.

This year, for our first (but not our last!) attendance, all of our students performed their poetry with enthusiasm, energy, positivity, and passion! Four semi-finalists were chosen from our school and gave their best performances – congratulations to Evan, Umair, Yumna, and Tanha and to all students who participated. Our entire group was also able to meet Carlos Andres Gomez, get autographs, and receive inspiring messages from the well-known Master Poet. Carlos has also already reached out to me about planning a class visit in the Fall-very exciting! Overall, the event sparked a deeper love for poetry in many of our students-some are even preparing for next year already! ☺



6th Grade Violin Concert

The sixth grade violin concert took place on June 2nd. The students performed three songs including Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and the Star Wars theme song. Students recited poems as well. Lower grade students participated as the audience, many loudly cheering "Bravo!" for the performers.



Meet Eileen

Eileen's dream of becoming a teacher began in grade school. She loved learning and was excited by the process itself. She looked at her teachers and what they did in class every day and thought that was something she wanted to do when she grew up. Eileen studied Sociology and Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Queens College and taught in an afterschool program during her time there. She wanted to jump right into working with kids and learn more about how they thought and interacted before she had her own class. Two weeks after she graduated from college, she got a full-time teaching job and has never looked back!

Eileen has been teaching for over fifteen years in various early elementary grades and has experience in both New York City private and public schools. At St. John's University she chose to focus her Masters degree specifically in the field of early childhood education. She enjoys teaching in the early education grades because she likes to be a part of children's educational foundation. She wants children to have a positive experience in school early on and wants to play a part in molding their beginning views of what school and learning are like, setting them up with a positive view of education for the years ahead.

Morning meeting is a highlight for the kids, where they share what they did over the weekend; same goes for show-and-tell on Fridays. Eileen loves how her students are open and speak freely; they are not shy to tell you how they are feeling, what they think, and what is going on in their lives. They delight in making connections as they speak in their triads and in class discussions. They soak up everything Eileen presents to them!

her immediately (which kindergartners seem to do with everyone!), and the class feels like she has been with them since September.

Eileen's class is full of energy – which makes sense, since they are kindergartners! She describes her students as enthusiastic learners who like to share ideas and personal experiences with each other. Eileen sets a standard routine to provide structure for the children so that they feel safe and know what to expect from her and from the class. Morning meeting is a highlight for the kids, where they share what they did over the weekend; same goes for show-and-tell on Fridays. Eileen loves how her students are open and speak freely; they are not shy to tell you how they are feeling, what they think, and what is going on in their lives. They delight in making connections as they speak in their

triads and in class discussions. They soak up everything Eileen presents to them!

Eileen is enthusiastic about using field trips to deepen children's understanding of a particular topic. The kindergartners went on four trips this year and she wants to do more next year. Eileen ensures that all trips connect with what the class is doing in school. For example, they went to the Queens Botanical Garden when the class was studying trees and got to see and touch all kinds of different species. They went to the Museum of Math when they were studying geometry and participated in a lesson and played with the exhibits. Eileen explains that field trips bring home what students have learned in the classroom and enables them to see how it applies in the real world, creating memories for the children. Besides, who doesn't like to go out for a day to a fun activity!

Eileen is originally from Jackson Heights and her husband is from Astoria. They live in Kew Gardens now with their two boys who are five and almost eight. This summer she will spend time with her family, reflect on the first year at Q300, and plan for the year ahead so she can be fully prepared when September rolls around. To prepare our graduating kindergartners for first grade next year, Eileen recommends that we engage with our children and read...read...and read some more! It is essential to keep up reading levels in the summer, and we can support them in this by spending fifteen or twenty minutes a day on reading and asking them questions to work on comprehension. Quality reading time can include independent reading, reading aloud to an adult, or even us reading to them. We can read paper books, e-readers, or whatever works to keep reading a part of the routine while we are on break. ☺



Meet Jackie

Blink and you'll miss her...Jackie, Q300 kindergarten teacher, never stops! Jackie has been a teacher for fourteen years, always in kindergarten or first grade. In the classroom and in life more generally Jackie is always on the move, and if she is sitting still she is talking fast.

Jackie has worked with gifted kids her entire career, always in New York City public schools. Her favorite grade to teach is kindergarten because of the amount of growth she gets to see in each student – reading, writing, problem-solving, social development and so much more. One of the great things about a kindergarten classroom is that all of the students are completely different from each other and

At Q300 Jackie has really enjoyed watching all of her students continue to grow and go past where she thought they would be at the end of the year. She loves the school community and appreciates how much she feels the leadership and staff cares about everything in the school – the kids, the teachers, what is working and what isn't. True to the values of the school, decision-making is inclusive and input is sought to make the best decisions for the community.

add their own gifts, talents, and personalities to the community. Students have varied academic and life experiences, some are shy and others are outgoing, and they manage to bring out the best of each other.

When Jackie was growing up she wanted to be a dancer. Her family had a dance studio where she worked and it was there that she had her first opportunity to work with young children – and she loved to see the progress they could make. As her dreams moved away from dancing, she considered career options that would allow her to work with kids outside of the world of dance. She decided to pursue a degree in early childhood education from Southampton – Long Island University. She went on to Touro College for her Graduate degree and studied Early Childhood and Special Education and recently earned

her Administration degree from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Jackie's favorite part of the day at Q300 is explorations because she has an opportunity to just talk to the students as they are playing and learn about them as individuals. She also uses snack time in the classroom to make personal connections, walking around to each table and having conversations with children. Much of the time Jackie is serious in the classroom but these are moments where she can be herself, which involves a fair amount of joking around and laughter.

Jackie has been spending a lot of time with the students on graduation practice this month, diligently rehearsing for the stepping up ceremony. There is a lot in store for families of kindergartners at the ceremony, including a Q300 song about our core values. The students from both classes have been practicing three times per week in their own classes as well as down in the auditorium. It is a great example of what Jackie appreciates about kindergarten – when she first taught them the song it was hard to imagine everything coming

together, but sure enough they all get there and it clicks. Same goes for reading and writing – as unbelievable as it may seem in September, they all get there by the end of the year.

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Jackie is married to Jarrod and is a mom to two children, Alexandra in kindergarten and Dominic in Pre-K. She grew up in Flushing and now lives with her family in Long Island. Jackie is active and likes to spend time at the beach, or at her family's summer house in the Poconos. She likes to do anything that has to do with arts and crafts with her kids (and of course ours as well!).

Jackie is looking forward to taking a break over the summer and spending time with her children. She reminds us to do the same – our Q300 children have worked very hard over the year and it is important they are active and have social opportunities over the summer. Jackie's advice: Have fun! Play math games! Problem solve! Of course remembering that the best way to help your child is to coach them in solving problems instead of doing it for them. Her advice reminds me of the beginning of the school year where the first thing she told me was to never spell another word for my child, they have to learn to do it themselves... we've come a long way! ☺



My favrit thing in Q300 is
Misfalinis tim.

My favrit part of
Q300 is leaning from
jackie.

My favorite
technology. part of Q300 is

My faverit thing
of Q300 is Reses

My faverit thing about
Q300 is a feder school.
And are teacher's.
My teachers name
is miss Jackie.

My frovrot ting about
Q300 is the techrs
thar.

**The Kindergarteners
reflect on their first
year of Q300.**

my favorite thing is
Jackie, Kristina, Math and
Tech.

My Favrit ting
in kindergarten is jim.

my fraive part of Q300 is
Dissmisa l.

My favrit thing
about Q300 is
Gym.

myfvorit thing
about Q300 is
EXPLORASHONS.

My favrit thing
about Q300 is
Jackie.

My favrit part
of kindergarten
is tecnology
becus I like to
porgram.

My favroite part of Q300
is Explore atains.

My favrit part
about Q300 is Reses.

My favorite thing about
Q300 is Matt.

I learned in science
cloth look like res
and at EXPORASHONS
I learned diddoks
are very popular in math
I learned $E + 3 = 6$

I learned in music
The irish Jig in music
And I learned a lot
of songs And I rile
Like The song ^{land} is Your

My fvorit thing about
Q300 is art.

In science i learned how to use a bropr
1. Put the dropr in the water
2. Squeez the dropr
3. and take it out.

My favrit thing
about Q300
is Jacke and
Kristina.

My favriot thing about
Q300 is EXPLORASHINS.

my frit thing about
Q300 is Exprashins.

My Favrite thig about Q300
is explorerashn!

I LEARNED TECHNOLOGY HOW TO
MAKE A TRAIL ROAD
INKKOTI I LEARNED BAS WOOD

I learned to write
a how to Book
and poems.

I learned how to write acrostic
Poem. Some details are that acrostic poems
is that you have to pick something like snow
but you have to right whatever you pick in
a line down about your topic. Also
just try your best!

I learned writing because at first
grad you will learn hard
riding.

I learned a lot to knit fabric
because

I learned about fabric and
math and trees and letter
and learned about animal
and we learned

I learned fabric
times. it was
verex site.

I learned about fabric like the different
kinds of fabric like organza, seersucker,
Terry cloth and corduroy and many more fabrics.
I learned a new topic called mindfulness where
you be quiet and read, draw or put your head
down.

I learned about
Sulhappu W U
I 2 U 4 2 11

I learned all
about trees I
learned that some
trees are strike.

I learned music
I like music
because Susan she
sings songs. I like

in k-i i learned
MUSIC can
express feelings

I learned pointillism in art class.
I also learned many different kinds of
writing (persuasive writing, how to write, and
small moment stories) I also learned
tec! I love technology (tec)

I learned how
to spell

I learned all about fabric
this year. I have also learned
all about 3-D shapes in
math class.

I learned about 2-D and 3-D shapes
in math and I learned fabric in science

I learned my
music and
technology

In science I learned about
How to YOS a drop!

I LEARNED ABOUT READING LEVEL

BOOKS



Meet Sharon

Sharon is Q300's school secretary, she has a variety of responsibilities all aimed at keeping Q300 running smoothly and has been a great help to get the first year of the school up and running. Interestingly, Sharon was also in the building for the first class of PS 17—but that time around she was in kindergarten herself! Sharon was born in Brooklyn, but lived in Astoria as a young child and she attended PS 17 from kindergarten through second grade.


Sharon has been working for the Department of Education for twenty one years and until she came to Q300 she held roles as a paraprofessional. At Q300 she has clerical responsibilities in the office, answering phones and emails, supporting Matt and the staff. She manages procurement and supplies, takes care of attendance and helps students make copies for class or call home when needed. Sharon also helps with transportation, coordinating buses and MetroCards for students coming from all over the city.

Sharon spends time with the Q300 children at arrival, dismissal, and during lunch and recess. She heads downstairs to the 29th street entrance to greet the kindergarten, first grade, and sixth grade students arriving in the morning and making sure their day gets off to a good start at school. She helps the little ones off the bus, extending a helping hand to get them down those big bus stairs, often over puddles or snow piles this winter. And then reverses the process at dismissal, lining up students in the hallway according to what bus they are on and escorting them downstairs, onto the bus, and home to their families.

Sharon helps with lunch and recess, overseeing the children as they play and eat, resolving disputes, and helping out with whatever is needed. She always has the school emergency bag with her, with a first aid kit and ice packs, emergency phone numbers and contact names, and the precious paper towels! She also brings coloring pages and crayons for the younger grades on rainy days when it is not possible to go outside for recess.

Sharon's favorite part about Q300 is the amount of interaction she gets with the kids and how well she gets to know them; compared to a typical school where secretaries might not spend as much time with the students. She gets to see how much they enjoy being a part of the school community and appreciates the whole environment. Sharon's favorite part of her day is arrival because the kids are always smiling and happy to see her and talk to her about their morning. Lunchtime is another favorite because she gets to know the students on a more personal level.

Most recently, Sharon has been spending a lot of time registering the families that will attend Q300 next year. We all remember all of the documentation required and the process to get students into the DOE system. The highlight of the process is getting to meet all of the new kids and parents that will join us next year.

Sharon has three adult children of her own. Her youngest daughter is a first grade teacher, her oldest daughter is a guidance counselor, and her son in the middle is an electrician. While Sharon has lived in several Queens neighborhoods growing up and with her family, she has been back in Brooklyn for the last fifteen years. Sharon is looking forward to the summer when she will spend much of her time working in her second vocation—as a personal trainer. She is also looking forward to spending time with her family, both here in New York but also at her parents' house in Pennsylvania. 

Q300 PTA Executive Board Elected!

The board members will begin serving on July 1st. Congratulations and thank you for volunteering your time for Q300!

President:
David Wang

Executive Vice President:
Maria Hantzopoulos

Secretary:
Ellen Berger

Treasurer:
Jasmine Rosner; Sue Sekar

Fundraising:
Melissa Smith-Cruz; Paula Marisi

Membership:
Catherine Leopando,
Eleonora Rabinovich-Buchalter

Communications:
Jamie Trish

Seventh Grade Rep:
Steve Kahn

Second Grade Rep:
Gina Reiss

First Grade Rep:
Sarah Willett-Chang

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