



# Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes-April 8, 2016



Dear Parents,

April is National Poetry Month. Although teachers read poems with their students all year long, it is fun to spend a little extra time enjoying and celebrating poetry in April.

As I have shared with you in our workshops and discussions, reading poetry with children has the power to support their developing reading skills in many ways. First, the sounds of language abound in poems---especially rhyme and alliteration. In order for children to be able to identify and generate sounds when reading and writing, they first need extensive experience listening to them. That is why Nursery Rhymes are so important! Second, reading poetry, especially poems that rhyme, can help children develop fluency---the ability to read smoothly and with expression. Finally, poems create vivid images in their readers' minds. The ability to visualize is an essential component of reading comprehension.

Here are some additional thoughts from **J. Patrick Lewis, U.S. Children's Poet Laureate (2011-2013)**:

*"Why is poetry so important?" Poetry is essential for children because it is "the best words in the best order." The rhythm and rhymes can help children develop a love a language---and a love of reading. Once kids begin flexing their writing muscles, poetry can spark their creativity and let their imaginations soar! You can read newspapers and magazines all you want, but nowhere else are you going to find words taken to such beautiful and sometimes absurd extremes as in poetry."*

Finally, because it is also **National Library Week** next week, here is an additional idea from J. Patrick Lewis:

*"Everyone knows what 911 means. Everyone should know what 811 means---that's the poetry section of the library. Visit as often as you can."*

Here are some suggestions--but there are many, many wonderful poets for children, so please explore!

**Shel Silverstein** Works Include: A Light in the Attic, Where the Sidewalk Ends

**Jack Prelutsky** Works Include: Something Big Has Been Here, New Kid on the Block, Scranimals, Be Glad Your Nose is on Your Face



**Kenn Nesbitt** Works Include: My Hippo Has the Hiccups, The Tightly Whitey Spider, Revenge of the Lunch Ladies, The Aliens Have Landed

**Sharon Creech** Works Include: Love That Dog, Hate That Cat, Who's That Baby, Fishing in the Air

**Paul Janeczko** Works Include: A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems, A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing and Shout, Knock at a Star: A Child's Introduction to Poetry

**Kristine O'Connell George** Works Include: Emma Dilemma, Little Dog and Duncan, The Great Frog Race

*Happy Reading!*

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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